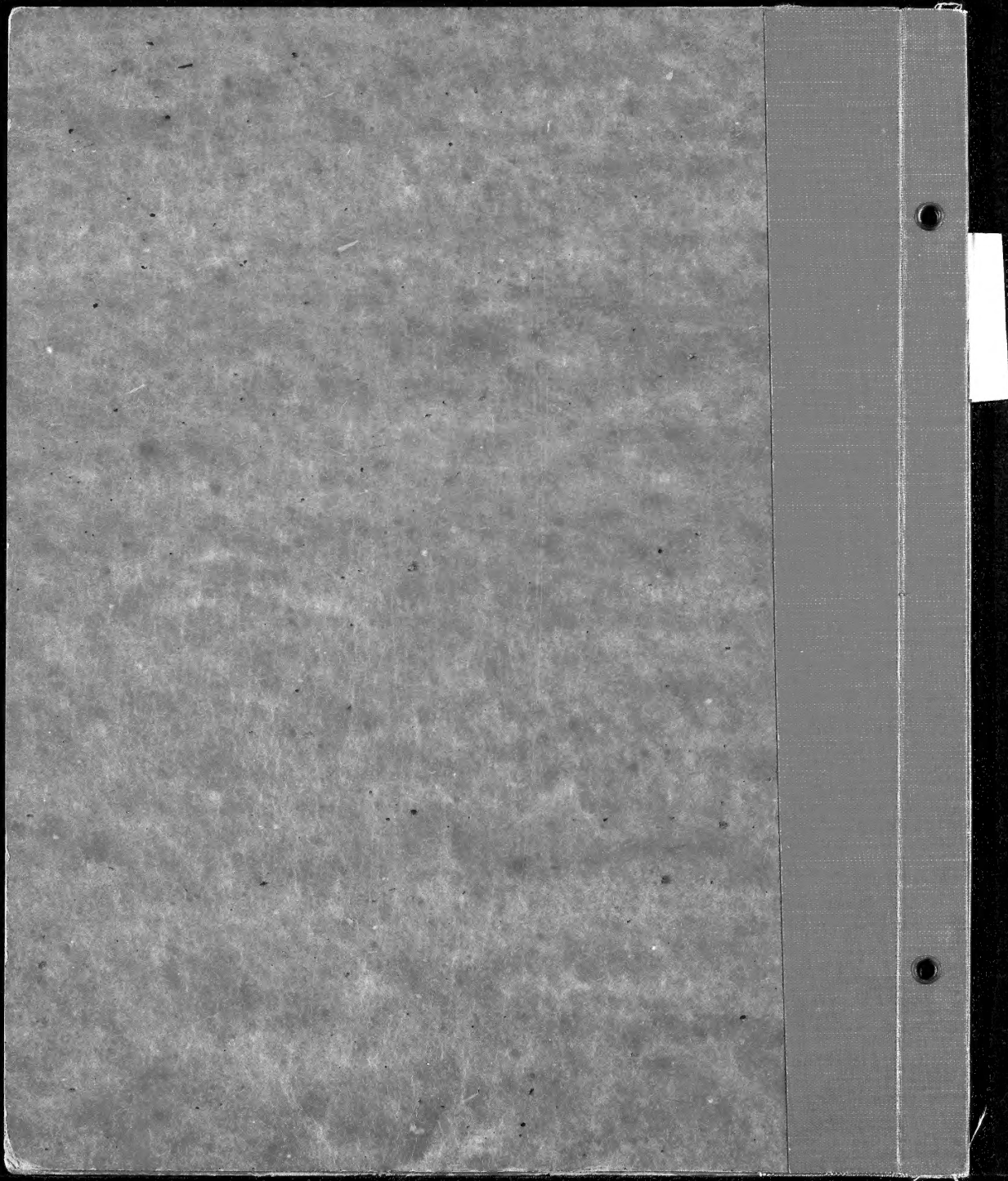


Journal, 1899.

at  
1  
Dec.



Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

January.

The month began clear and cold with the ground deeply buried in snow. Of this a portion had remained from the great

Wm. Brewster checked the passages in this volume for 1899. I have copied them all into "Systematic Notes, Vols. 1-63".

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and the thermometer  
the whole month. At  
58°, was reached.

Walter Deane, October 27, 1900.

For the most part, was clear and mild the thermometer seldom falling below 20° at night and usually going above 32° at noon, while it rose to, or a little above, 40° on the 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th. Under these conditions the snow wasted rapidly and a deluge of warm rain which came on the 16th removed practically all that remained in the roads and fields while the grass, which it had shielded from the severe frosts of late December and early January, came out almost as fresh and green as in spring. There was a second heavy rain on the 24th but the only snow fall which occurred actually within the month was one of two or three inches on the evening of the 31st. On the 27th another cold wave began and lasted through the remainder of January but the lowest temperature reached was 8° on the 28th.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

January.

The month began clear and cold with the ground deeply buried in snow. Of this a portion had remained from the great November storm but about eight inches fell on the night of December 31st. At sunrise on January 2nd the thermometer stood at  $-8^{\circ}$ , the lowest temperature of the whole month. At noon on the 5th the highest temperature,  $58^{\circ}$ , was reached. From the 5th to the 26th the weather, for the most part, was clear and mild the thermometer seldom falling below  $20^{\circ}$  at night and usually going above  $32^{\circ}$  at noon, while it rose to, or a little above,  $40^{\circ}$  on the 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th. Under these conditions the snow wasted rapidly and a deluge of warm rain which came on the 16th removed practically all that remained in the roads and fields while the grass, which it had shielded from the severe frosts of late December and early January, came out almost as fresh and green as in spring. There was a second heavy rain on the 24th but the only snow fall which occurred actually within the month was one of two or three inches on the evening of the 31st. On the 27th another cold wave began and lasted through the remainder of January but the lowest temperature reached was  $8^{\circ}$  on the 28th.



1899.

January.        With the exception of two trips to Boston my ramblings (No.2). during the month have been confined to short morning walks in the immediate neighborhood of our place and a single drive to Mt.Auburn and Fresh Pond. Those of my friends who have been further afield report birds exceedingly scarce with no rare or irregular winter visitors present. O.A.Lothrop has found in the Fresh Pond swamps only a few Song Sparrows, two or three Tree Sparrows, a flock of twelve Meadow Larks (near Fresh Pond, Jan.8th) and one of ten Chickadees. For the first time in years no Shrikes and neither the Red-tailed nor the Red-shouldered Hawk have been seen in these swamps but I found a Shrike at Fresh Pond Grove on the 17th. On the 8th Walter and George Deane walked from Arlington to Waverly through woods and cedar grown pastures looking carefully for birds but meeting with only two Brown Creepers, about six Chickadees and five Crows. Two Kingfishers have been seen, one at Mystic Pond, by W.Faxon, on the 15th, the other in Boston, on the Beacon St. sea wall just west of Harvard Bridge, by A.Hathaway on the 24th. Hathaway also saw a female Red-winged Blackbird at the Bay State Clay Pit on the 7th. Herring Gulls and Whistlers have frequented Charles River Basin whenever this sheet of water has been reasonably free from ice but the Whistlers have been much less numerous there than is usual at

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.        this season. Fresh Pond has been closed with ice ever since January. Christmas.

(No.3).        The following birds were noted during the month in our

garden or in the large trees in front of the house:-

1. Parus atricapillus. Seen almost daily in numbers varying from one to ten.
2. Sitta carolinensis. A male on the 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 & 11th
3. Certhia f.americana. Two together on the 5th & 9th, a single bird almost daily through the month.
4. Regulus satrapa. A female Knight, usually alone but sometimes with Chickadees, was noted on the 13, 16, 26 & 28th
5. Ampelis cedrorum. A solitary bird with full wax tipped wings appeared in the garden on the 30th visiting the cedar tree and spending some time in the little crab apple at the east end of the Museum. (It paid us a second visit on February 1st).
6. Zonotrichia albicollis. Two birds present during the first week of January and seen once or twice afterwards.
7. Passer domesticus. Present constantly in numbers varying from 10 or 12 to 40 or 50.
8. Corvus americanus. Frequently heard cawing in or over our lindens at daybreak. One also visited the suet in front of the dressing room window on two occasions but without apparently eating any of it.

1899.

- January. 9. Cyanocitta cristata. Two birds together in the garden on (No.4). the 4th and one on the 3rd, 6th & 13th. They inspected the suet in the elm but did not touch it.
10. Dryobates pubescens. Seen almost daily.
11. Colaptes auratus. Two on the 3rd, a single bird on the 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13 & 23rd.
12. Megascops asio. At about 5 P.M. on the 30th, a Screech Owl was reported in the garden. Walter, Purdie, Gilbert and I rushed out and at once heard the bird wailing. A moment later we discovered it perched about 35 feet above the ground in an apple tree just back of the lilacs. We could see it distinctly against the sky sitting erect and moving its head freely, both up and down with a bobbing motion and revolving from side to side. We walked directly beneath it before it took alarm and flew off towards Hubbard Park. During the past ten or fifteen years Screech Owls have been seen frequently, at all seasons, in other parts of Cambridge and nests have been found in the College grounds, on Kirkland Street, and near the Botanic Gardens but this is the first bird that has visited our place for a long time.
13. Accipiter velox. An adult female appeared in the garden on the 10th, perching for several minutes in the large apple tree where the Screech Owl was seen. On the 24th

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

January. what was doubtless the same bird paid us another visit alight-  
(No.5). ing first low down in the lilacs over the little pond behind  
the house and afterwards flying to the elm over the driveway.  
On both occasions all the Sparrows on the place rushed to  
cover at once hiding behind the slats of blinds or in the  
vines which cling to the walls of the Museum and not venturing  
forth again until after the Hawk had departed.

Several of the species above mentioned, although of not  
uncommon occurrence here at this season, were evidently at-  
tracted to our grounds in unusual numbers and with exceptional  
frequency by some suet of which, late in December, I hung a  
large piece in the elm over the driveway in front of our  
dressing room window at the same time placing another piece  
in the crab apple tree at the east end of the Museum within  
two yards or less of the library window. For a week or more  
both pieces passed apparently unnoticed but early in January  
the birds began coming to them and after this one or both were  
visited more or less regularly and frequently by Chickadees,  
Brown Creepers, a White-breasted Nuthatch, several Downy Wood-  
peckers and a number of English Sparrows. The Chickadees and  
Woodpeckers were almost daily visitors; the Creepers appeared  
less often but still not infrequently; the Nuthatch came reg-  
ularly up to the 11th after which it disappeared. Crows and

1899.

January. Jays came into the elm on a few occasions but although they (No.6). looked at the suet longingly they did not venture to touch it.

The canny English Sparrows, bountifully supplied with bread crumbs from the kitchen in addition to such grain as they could pilfer from the Pigeons (they not<sup>only</sup> entered a wire-enclosed yard for this purpose but a few of the bolder ones even ventured into the pigeon loft over my study) regarded the suet at first with a mixture of indifference and suspicion but when the native birds began to partake of it freely they gathered close about and watched them with grave attention. At length - on January 22nd - having satisfied themselves by repeated observations that the suet was neither poisoned nor the bait of some hidden snare they attacked the piece in the elm coming to it singly or in small parties the members of which, clustering over it like bees, feasted greedily. Although they often quarrelled with one another I could not discover that they ever molested or even threatened the native birds. Nevertheless the Creepers and Woodpeckers either disliked them or distrusted them for neither species would approach the suet when a Sparrow was on it nor would either continue eating when one came very near.

The plucky little Chickadees, however, showed no fear whatever of the Sparrows but met them on all occasions with



1899.

January. the same independent yet friendly spirit which they display (No.7). towards most other small birds. Their numbers apparently varied from day to day but the first flock evidently contained ten birds although only twice during the month were they all seen together. I suspected, however, that most of them really visited the suet daily, coming singly or in parties of from two to five or six. One member of the flock was wholly destitute of a tail and was accordingly christened (by Walter) "Sine cauda". When several birds appeared in company they usually ate singly, each awaiting his turn with evident impatience but great good temper and when his opportunity came flitting to the coveted perch the instant his predecessor vacated it. Apparently there was some understanding among them as to the maximum length of time during which each bird might occupy it for they changed places very frequently usually once every two minutes or less. The same bird, however, often returned more than once before his appetite was appeased.

Occasionally two birds would alight on the suet at once; if on opposite sides or one at the top, the other clinging back downward beneath, neither seemed to object to the other's presence - possibly because it was not noticed - but if side by side a short but spirited contest for exclusive possession invariably occurred. Twice, however, I saw a Chickadee and an

1899.

January. English Sparrow, perched on the top of the suet in full view (No. 8). of, and scarce six inches from, one another, continue eating for several minutes, neither bird paying the slightest apparent attention to his vis-a-vis. On another occasion a Chickadee and a Downy Woodpecker were observed eating on opposite sides of the suet at the same time. The Chickadees visited the suet at all hours of the day but oftenest during the forenoon. I heard them give the phoebee call a few times but not with much spirit.

The Creepers, with the timidity characteristic of their kind, never ventured to approach the suet when any of the other birds were engaged at it. It was amusing to watch one of them slowly climbing the opposite side of the elm pretending to regard the bark closely but at every convenient opportunity peeping around the bole to see if the Chickadee or Sparrow had departed, and, if he had not, dropping to the foot of the tree and ascending again, often repeating this many times in succession. When the coast was finally clear the Creeper would alight on the top of the suet and eat greedily for several minutes never pecking at it vigorously as did the Chickadees and Woodpeckers but laboriously prying or tearing out shreds or fragments, often of such large size that he had difficulty in swallowing them.

Twice during the month I saw a Creeper descend to the

1899.

January. ground under the elm and ramble over a large area of bare and (No.9). frozen turf, moving rather gracefully and easily by a succession of elastic Sparrow-like hops. His head was carried high, his neck, which was held at nearly right angles with the body, appeared unusually slender and elongated. He frequently stopped to pick up something from the surface of the ground, possibly small particles of suet which had fallen from above. Once the bird was joined by a large flock of English Sparrows whose presence, strange to say, did not appear to disconcert him in the least.

The Brown Creeper while ascending the trunk of a tree ordinarily carries his tail nearly in line with <sup>his body but with</sup> the spiny tips of the rectrices pressed lightly against the bark. Occasionally, however, the tail is jerked sharply outward and upward at each upward hop. This motion always accompanies the act of voiding the excrement.

At about 9 A.M. on the morning of the 9th a Creeper in one of our apple trees gave the full spring song twice in quick succession but in rather subdued tones. The weather, at the time, was mild with a fine rain falling.

Scarcely a day passed when the garden or the large trees about the house were not enlivened by the presence of a Downy Woodpecker and frequently, especially towards the close of

1899.

January. the month, two females came together while on a few occasions (No.10). a male and female appeared in company. Like the Chickadees they were evidently attracted by the suet of which they ate freely usually attacking the sides of the piece and using their powerful bills so effectively that their appetites were soon satisfied. Although at Concord they never give place to and frequently displace the Chickadees they seem to either fear or dislike the English Sparrows here never attempting to drive them from the suet and when approached by one or more of them showing evident uneasiness; sometimes even leaving the suet abruptly and flying away to a distance. They have been so strictly and uniformly silent during the month that I do not remember once ~~having~~ hearing a note or call of any kind.

The Flickers came into the garden every few days, either singly or two birds in company. They ignored the suet but after the middle of the month were frequently seen eating of the abundant fruit of a Parkman's apple tree. I heard their ki-u call several times but there has been neither "shouting" nor drumming.

The two White-throated Sparrows were with us during the whole of December last and up to January 8th when they departed suddenly and without obvious reason reappearing, however, on the 15th and again on the 18th. One was in full plumage, the other a dull colored bird with ashy throat. They were

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

January. nearly always seen together, either in the dense thicket of (No.11). lilacs at the rear of the house or near the kitchen where they and the English Sparrows were liberally supplied each morning with toast or stale loaf bread broken into small pieces. They showed neither fear nor aversion towards the English Sparrows but mingled with them on apparently friendly terms and, so far as we observed, they were never molested or even threatened by them. Like the English Sparrows they appeared to prefer bread to anything else although they also ate some millet seed which I scattered under the lilacs. During December the white-throated bird frequently answered my whistled imitation of the peabody call and once fairly started he sometimes sang dozens of times in succession in fairly full clear tones; after January came in I failed to get any response from him.



1899.

February. The first half of February was steadily cold, the mercury falling to zero on the 9th & 12th, to 5° below zero on the 10th, to 6° below on the 11th, and rising above 32° only once - on the 4th at noon when it reached 38°. The 1st, 2nd, 9th, 10th and 15th were the only perfectly clear days. About three inches of snow fell on the 3rd, two inches on the 5th, four inches on the 7th, six inches on the 8th, six inches on the 12th and sixteen inches on the 13th.

On the 16th the weather moderated and continued mild to the end of the month, the temperature rising above 40° almost every day and seldom falling much below 30° at night, the extremes being 48° <sup>(reached)</sup> at noon on the 17th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 27th) and 19° (at 6 A.M. on the 26th). During most of this period the sky was cloudless, the air brilliantly clear and there was almost no wind. The only precipitation came in the form of a light rain on the night of the 26th and the forenoon of the 27th.

The snow storm of the 12th & 13th was characterized by the Boston Transcript as "one of the greatest known in the past thirty-two years". It extended over the whole of the eastern United States and was everywhere accompanied by low temperature and violent North to North-east winds which drifted the snow badly, the railroads being almost completely

1899.

February disabled for two or three days. At Cambridge the thermometer (No.2). marked zero at 7 A.M., 8° at noon, and 10° at 6 P.M. on the 12th; on the following day 8° at 7 A.M., 10° at noon and 18° at 6 P.M. During both days as well as the intervening night snow fell almost continuously, but most heavily on the afternoon and evening of the 13th. The 14th was cloudless with a temperature of 14° at 7 A.M. and 22° at noon. Throughout the South Atlantic and Gulf States, exclusive of central and southern Florida, this storm was in some respects actually more severe than at the North. The snow fall varied from five to eighteen inches and the mercury sank, at very many places, nearly to zero while at a few it went below zero. In Louisiana all the orange trees are said to have perished. At New Orleans the mercury fell to 6°.

A.T.Wayne, writing from Mt.Pleasant, South Carolina, Feb.18th, says:- "We have just passed through the coldest weather ever known here for 200 years. Thermometer on Monday, 13th, 9° above zero and on Tuesday at 6.55 A.M., 5° above zero! The whole county was covered with snow to the depth of 5 inches and drifts were two feet deep. The mortality among birds was simply appalling: Fox Sparrows and Snow birds perished by the millions. Grass Finches, Chipping Sparrows, Cat birds, Doves, Killdeer, and innumerable Woodcock were frozen to death.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

February. Pine Warblers and Blue birds were decimated as I have seen (No.3). none since the blizzard. Thousands of Woodcock were shot by would-be sportsmen. One man sent to Charleston market 200 pairs that he shot in a few hours. I skinned a good many that I found frozen. It will take 20 years for these birds to establish themselves under the most favorable conditions. It was a most heart-rending and pathetic scene which I can never forget. When the Fox Sparrows were so benumbed with cold that they could not move, Boat-tailed Grackles and Black birds would peck at their heads - kill them - and eat them. The stronger Fox Sparrows would also eat the remains of their companions. It was simply awful. A great many mules, horses and cows were frozen to death on this plantation".

At Raleigh, North Carolina, according to C.S.Brimley, (cf.letter, Feb.23rd, 1899) the storm began "at about 1 P.M., Feb.11th and it continued snowing without intermission till about 6 P.M., Feb.13th. In all 18 inches (official) of snow fell. The lowest temperature was 2.3 below zero, Fahr., on Feb.14th, A.M. Feb.14th & 15th were bright and the snow thawed rapidly. On Feb.16th 1.24 inches of rain fell on the snow, converting it into slush. Since then it has melted very rapidly and is all gone now. The minimum of -2.3 and the depth of snow, 18 inches, are records for this locality.

10

1899.

February. Of dead birds since the snow I have seen three, 1 Song (No.4). Sparrow, 1 White-throated Sparrow & 1 Robin. The thaw followed the snow so rapidly that I do not think much injury to birds resulted. x x x x x Robins were common during and after the snow; during the first three or four days after the snow I heard Shore Larks frequently".

Reports from outlying districts near Cambridge have been meagre this month. The deep snows have deterred even the most active of the younger men from attempting to look much after birds. Reginald Heber Howe saw a Robin, a Horned Lark and a small flock of Snow Buntings in Arlington on the 15th. The Robin is the only one that has been reported and but one Cedar Bird has been seen. O.A.Lothrop has found only a solitary Shrike and a few Tree Sparrows in the Fresh Pond Swamps. Walter Faxon has not been out since the great storm.

My only field excursion was on the 3rd, when I went to Concord with Gilbert. We got off the cars at the West Bedford station and crossed the river on the ice to Ball's Hill where we dined at the cabin. While there we saw two Chickadees and a male Downy came repeatedly to a small piece of suet which Pat had hung up in an oak in front of the door. These were actually the only birds met with on my land although I walked up river to Holden's Hill and down to the north end of Davis's Hill. Near the West Bedford station I saw a solitary

1899.

February. Crow and heard a Blue Jay screaming. There were a few tracks (No. 5). of Rabbits and Gray Squirrels in the woods and two or three fresh tracks of Foxes leading across the frozen meadows.

With the exception of this trip and a drive around Mt. Auburn on the morning of the 26th I spent practically the entire month on our home place where the following birds were noted:-

1. Parus atricapillus. Almost constantly present in numbers varying from one to eight. When the weather was clear and mild their visits to the suet were brief and infrequent; when cold they came to it oftener and stayed longer; during the great snow storm of the 12th and 13th they scarcely left it from daylight to dark. On the 13th there were six in the crab apple tree most of the time and sometimes as many as three feeding on opposite sides of the suet at once. A <sup>W</sup>forth alighted on it for a moment but did not stay. Chickadees invariably pick at suet with half opened bills.

Once in January and very frequently during February, usually when the weather was clear and mild, we saw Chickadees carrying small fragments of suet to various parts of the garden and concealing them in crevices or behind loose scales of bark as well as in dense evergreen



1899.

February.

(No.6).

foliage. Possibly only one bird had adopted this practice, though we have reason to think that there were more <sup>but</sup> ~~for~~, on no occasion was more than one engaged at it at the same time. He worked very busily and steadily, making a trip every minute or two and never using the same hiding place twice although he often took several fragments to different parts of the same tree. He tamped them firmly in place with his bill before leaving them and sometimes returned, shortly afterwards, apparently to make sure that they were all right. Once he was seen to remove a piece which, only a few minutes before, he had fixed with unusual care. Some of the fragments were hidden in the tree in which the lump of suet hung but the majority were taken distances varying from ten to fifty yards.

~~One~~ tailless bird, sine cauda, was seen almost daily up to the 17th after which he disappeared.

I did not hear the phoebe-whistle during the month.

2. Certhia f.americana. A single Creeper seen on the 17th, 20th and 21st. On the 26th two birds appeared together in the elm over the driveway. One of them did something which I have never before seen nor even, I think, heard of. He was ascending the trunk of the tree and had just

1899.

February.

(No.7).

passed the base of the branch on which the suet hangs when a Sparrow that had been feeding at the suet flew away. The Creeper at once turned about and descended the vertical trunk for a distance of nearly two feet, moving head downward, like a Nuthatch, and with perfect apparent ease, although rather slowly and cautiously. On reaching the branch he followed it out to the suet which he at once attacked but before he had taken many mouthfuls a Sparrow came and frightened him away. This was the only occasion in February when I saw a Creeper at the suet. The bird noted on the 21st sang twice and in tones so loud and clear that I heard him distinctly as I sat at my desk in the museum with the windows closed.

3. Ampelis cedrorum. A solitary Cedar bird with wax tipped wings appeared in the crab apple tree at 1 P.M., Feb.1st. It was doubtless the same bird which we saw in the garden, January 30th. Strangely enough it did not appear to notice the unusually abundant fruit which still hangs on our Parkman's apple and on some Viburnum opulus bushes, and still more strangely this fruit has not attracted any other birds of the same species. Perhaps the February flight of Cedar birds did not take place this year. I certainly have not heard that it did.

1899.

- February. 4. Zonotrichia albicollis. On the morning of February 4th (No. 8). when the ground was covered with about four inches of fresh fallen snow I saw a White-throat eating bread crumbs from a dish on the kitchen steps in company with a number of English Sparrows. An hour later I heard it chirping and, as I was confident at the time, another bird of the same species answering it. But after this date only one bird was seen - on the 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24 & 25th. At first I supposed that this individual was one of the pair that had been seen together so often, earlier in the winter, but on examining it closely I discovered that it was unlike either having the pure white head stripes of the one combined with the dull gray throat of the other. Unless it may be assumed that one of this pair had changed plumage the bird seen after February 4th must have been a new comer to the garden.
5. Passer domesticus. The cold and snow of the 12th & 13th banished nearly all the Sparrows from our neighborhood. The half dozen or so that remained were evidently sorely pressed. Two came down the chimney of the Museum on the night of the 13th and were found next morning in the large room. The others spent the greater part of both days in the pigeon loft. This led me to hope that the

1899.

February.

(No. 9).

bulk of those which had departed would perish. But when the weather moderated on the 15th they began to return and by the next day they were apparently as numerous as ever. During the first ten days of February they swarmed about the suet in the elm at all hours of the day and evidently kept away the native birds (even the Chickadees) but after the middle of the month they neglected the suet and the native birds returned to it. On the 9th they attacked the suet at the Museum for the first time and in considerable numbers but we drove them off and they did not ~~attempt to~~ return.

6. Corvus americanus. Crows were frequently heard cawing in the early mornings in the old lindens and during the great snow storm of the 12th and 13th one alighted repeatedly in the elm <sup>suit</sup> of the driveway and inspected the suet closely but I did not see him touch it.
7. Cyanocitta cristata. Only one February record for the garden - that of a bird which visited the lilacs behind the house on the morning of the 15th.
8. Dryobates p. medianus. Two female Downies have been frequent - in fact almost daily - visitors to both pieces of suet, coming sometimes singly, sometimes together, but we have not seen a male in the garden this month. On the

1899.

February.

(No.10).

15th I heard a Woodpecker which I think was a Downy drum softly a few times. On the 24th Walter heard one drum a dozen times or more in an elm on the Greenleaf estate just below Mason Street. He saw the bird but it was so high up that he could not make sure of the sex. The drumming of this species is probably the very earliest spring sound that one can hear in the region about Cambridge.

We have repeatedly observed this winter that the Downy always keeps his bill tightly closed when pecking at suet whereas the Chickadees invariably strike it with half opened bills.

9. Colaptes auratus. The Flickers have been almost unceasing in their attentions to the Parkman's apple tree but they do not seem to have perceptibly diminished its bountiful supply of fruit. This is perhaps not to be wondered at since this little tree contained, last November, according to a computation made by Walter at least 45,000 apples. These apples are scarce larger than currants and the Flickers swallow them whole. A male and a female or two males and a female have usually appeared in company but once we saw two males together and on another occasion a male and two females. Hence there must have



Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

February.  
(No. 11).

been at least four birds in all. They have been absolutely silent during the whole month. On the morning of the 28th I saw a pair hopping about together on a space of bare turf under the elm over the driveway where a piece of suet hangs. They were picking up something which I believe to have been fragments of suet that had fallen from above but I could not make sure that this was the food they found.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

March.

March has been an unusually cold and dismal month. The temperature rose above 50° only once (on the 12th when it reached 64°) and above 40° only five times (on the 1, 6, 13, 16 and 29th) while it fell below 32° on the 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 30th, dropping to 16° on the 17th and to 18° the following morning. There have been but fifteen clear days in all. Snow fell on the 2nd (four inches 4th (a mere dust), 7<sup>th</sup> (four inches), 14th (a dust), 18th (two inches), 22nd (a dust), 26th (four inches), 31<sup>st</sup> (two inches). Heavy rain fell on the 15, 23 and 28th, light rain on the 4 and 5th. The ground was covered with snow and the surface frozen more or less hard up to the 28th. After this date the grass began to show traces of green in sunny sheltered places. The yellow crocuses in front of the Museum showed green shoots on the 6th, ~~but~~ closed but deep yellow flower buds on the 14th, four fully opened flowers on the 16th.

I have spent the entire month in Cambridge and have taken but few walks and only one drive. Faxon (has also) been closely confined. Lothrop has been out a few times only. Hence the birds have not been very closely watched in the outlying districts. The only arrivals reported to me are as follows:

Bluebird. March 6, two, Arlington, (G.M. Allen); flock of twelve,

Wellesley, (The Listener in Boston Transcript).

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

March. Robin. March 9, on Charles Deane estate, Cambridge, G.C.Deane.  
(No.2). " 10, flock of thirty, W.Roxbury, Dr.Reagh.

" 24, " " fifty, Belmont, O.A.Lothrop.

Cedar Bird. March 12, flock of fifteen, Payson Park, O.A.Lo-  
throp. March 31<sup>st</sup>, flock of seventeen, Chas. Deane estate, W. Deane

Bronzed Grackle. March 5, flock seen on Greenleaf estate,  
Cambridge, Fisher.

Red-winged Blackbird. March 12, eight or nine, Wayland,  
Chas.Paine.

Rusty Blackbird. March 13, Arlington, W.Faxon.

Fox Sparrow. March 18, one, W.Roxbury, Dr.Reagh.

Purple Finch. March 27, flock of five or six, Arlington,  
W.Faxon.

Sparrow Hawk. March 12, one; March 26, a male, Harvard Lawn,  
Belmont, O.A.Lothrop.

Black Duck. March 7, flock of nine flying over Glacialis,  
O.A.Lothrop.

Gooseander. March 11, "a few", Wayland, Chas.Paine.

A Mockingbird was seen by George C.Deane near the Hittinger  
Farm on School St., Belmont, March 25.

At forenoon of the  
On the 12th I drove up through Belmont and around the  
Mystic Ponds. The day was sunny and very warm for the season  
the thermometer standing at 50° at 8 A.M. and rising to 64° at  
noon or a little after. The snow melted rapidly and the roads

1899.

March. were deep in mud and slush. In the Lower Mystic just below (No. 3). the inlet where there was a space of open water several acres in extent, two Black Ducks and five Herring Gulls were standing on the edge of the ice and as I was passing around the head of the Upper Mystic a Whistler alighted in the open channel where the brook empties into the pond. These with a few Crows were the only birds observed although I stopped and listened for Bluebirds and Song Sparrows in several places.

The following birds were noted during the month in our garden or its immediate neighborhood:

1. Merula migratoria. Six silent birds, all apparently males,

feeding on the fruit of Parkman's apple and Viburnum

opulus on the morning of the 26th during a blinding snow storm. Four of them returned in the afternoon after the storm had ceased. A single bird was calling in the gar-

den on the morning of the 27th. <sup>morning of the</sup> and one was seen there on the 31<sup>st</sup>.  
*(On the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> I observed four before sunset and one bird perched in the garden at the east end of the house, daily steadily, and loudly for ten minutes or more, flooding the whole neighborhood with his rich notes.)*

2. Parus atricapillus. Seen daily (excepting on the 10, 12

& 19th) in numbers varying from one to six. Their attacks on the suet were frequent and energetic when the weather was stormy or cold, infrequent and listless when it was clear and mild. The Sparrows interfered with them much less often than was the case in January and early February. No storing of food was observed during March.

1899.

March.  
(No.4).

After the middle of the month the phoebe call was heard almost daily. "Sine cauda" has not been seen since February 17th.

3. Certhia familiaris americana. A single Creeper seen on 3, 9, 15, 17 and 25th. On the 29th four birds were seen together in the large willows at the N.W. end of the garden. They came flying across the garden in quick succession and when all were assembled chased each other around the trunk and among the branches. The willow contained, for a brief time, not only these Creepers but four Chickadees and a Downy Woodpecker. The full song of the Creeper was heard on the 9 & 15th and on the morning of the 29th a bird sang at short, regular intervals for nearly an hour and in tones as loud and clear as I have ever heard in the Maine woods. On the 17th I saw a Brown Creeper run down the lower part of the trunk of an elm for a distance of two feet or more to the ground on reaching which it hopped about ~~about~~ precisely like a small Sparrow (most nearly like Spizella socialis), stopping every now and then to pick up and swallow a fragment of suet which had fallen from above.

4. Sitta carolinensis. One seen in the garden on the morning of the 4th by W. Deane.
5. Zonotrichia albicollis. One seen in the garden on the

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March.

(No. 5).

2, 3, 6, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 24, 25, 27, 28 <sup>✓ 31<sup>st</sup></sup> and 29th. It was evidently the same bird that visited us in February. It sang in low, broken tones on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 27th, rather loudly and clearly, but ~~not~~ quite perfectly, on the 29th. It was very tame and familiar coming close about the Museum, once alighting on the bulkhead and on the morning of the 18th feeding for sometime in company with House Sparrows directly under one of the windows. The ground was covered with snow at the time and the White-throat uncovered some grain which lay beneath the snow by jumping first forward and then quickly backward, precisely as the Fox Sparrow does when scratching.

6. Passer domesticus. Present during the whole month in large numbers feeding, as before, on bread put out from the kitchen and on grain in the pigeon loft. The House Sparrows which were with the White-throat on the occasion mentioned in the last paragraph did not once attempt to scratch away the snow but merely pecked into it at random in search for the grain hidden <sup>beneath</sup> <sub>A</sub>. I doubt if they know how to scratch. Towards the end of the month a few House Sparrows were seen carrying building material about, but they have not begun their demonstrative and noisy courtships as yet.

1899.

- March. 7. Quiscalus quiscula aeneus. Mr. Fisher (of the Nuttall Club) reports seeing a flock of Bronzed Grackles on March 5th at the Greenleaf place, Brattle Street, where five were observed by W. Deane on the 15th. Lothrop met with two somewhere in Cambridge on the 11th. A solitary male appeared in an apple tree in the garden on the 21st and others were heard there on the 23rd, while a bird was observed on Brattle Street on the 27th. <sup>A flock of 14 flew over the garden at sunset on the 30th.</sup> These are all the Cambridge records for the month.
8. Corvus americanus. Seen every few days, flying overhead or perched in the lindens, usually in pairs, never more than three or four together, very noisy after the middle of the month. <sup>I am satisfied that these birds are the same individuals which nested on Elm in January, and February, and that they are also the birds which bred in this neighborhood.</sup>
9. Dryobates pubescens medianus. Downy Woodpeckers were almost daily visitors to the suet in the elm or that near the Museum. A pair appeared together on the 16, 17 and 20th, on the other occasions a single female. No drumming was heard and but rarely a vocal note of any kind. The Downy habitually spends a longer time at the suet than any other bird.
10. Colaptes auratus luteus. Present on the 2, 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28 and 29th; two birds being seen together on the 2, 4 and 21st, one on

1899.

March.  
(No. 7).

two other occasions. The fruit of the Parkman's apple continued the chief attraction for the Flickers through the month. The first "shouting" was heard by W. Deane in the Botanic Garden on the 9th. Two birds were shouting near Mason Street and one in the garden on the 27th, two on Appleton Street near the Wyman place on the 28th. There must be a good many Flickers in Cambridge this season, more, I think, than at any time within the past forty years.

11. Accipiter velox. A large female circling low over the garden on the 24th. This bird without much doubt was the same that twice visited the garden earlier in the winter.

12. Ampeelis cedrorum. None appeared in the garden this month but a flock of 17 were seen on the Charles Deane estate, Sparks Street on the morning of the 31st. (A flock of 12 visited our garden on the morning of April 1 and previously attracted the fruit of the Parkman's apple although it is now entirely tasteless.)

13. Passerella iliaca. One found dead on the lawn in front of the Brick Block on Sparks Street on the morning of the 31st. It may have flown against something during the snow storm of the preceding night.



Concord, Massachusetts.

1899.

April 4

Brilliantly clear with moderate north wind. Although the ground  
frost had last night the middle of the day was warm & springlike  
- the first really springlike day thus far. Saw an *Anticarsus* Butterfly. *Faint Butterfly*

I came to Concord late yesterday afternoon and am to spend  
a week or two at the Hayes' before settling down at the cabin  
for the remainder of the Spring.

It was delightful to hear the birds singing early this morning  
before I was up and through most of the forenoon while Gilbert, Pat  
and I were putting the canoes in order by the river in front of  
the house. I heard a Robin, a Bluebird, a Phoebe, two or three Song  
Sparrows, several Red-wings and a Flicker. There was also a Downy Woodpecker  
and, of course, the distant cawing of Crows. One must go well  
back into the country to enjoy such a concert in these days.  
I was impressed by the sweet, tender quality of most of the  
voices. The Phoebe delighted me most of all. He was perched in  
an elm over the water.

Birds singing  
near the  
Hayes'

There is no snow remaining in the fields and on driving barrels  
the grass is faintly greenish but wasted drifts lie everywhere  
on the north side of walls and everywhere thus. A little ice  
lines the south side of the Mill Brook meadows but bright  
green water covers most of the flooded meadows which are  
in sight of the house.

While at the Matthews' in the late afternoon I  
saw a Gull hovering over Great Meadows which, of course,  
are all under water with a border of snow covered ice  
along the bottom shore. At sunset Red-wings were  
perched all along the river near the Meads, singing.

Herring Gull

Red-wings

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 5

Colder than yesterday with a piercing N. E. wind but brilliantly clear and <sup>very</sup> delightfully warm sometime.

Not a bird of any kind song this morning nor during the forenoon but just before sunset some Red-wings were answering one another from the tops of the trees on Miller's meadow & later Robins were calling about the house.

I went to Ball's Hill just before noon paddling all the way down. Saw a pair of Glossaries on Great meadow and an adult ♀ Red-bellied Hawk at the edge of the woods on Holden's Hill. A Nuthatch was calling woot-woot-woot at the house and a Phoebe flitting about the North Bridge. Gilbert saw another Phoebe at the cabin but when I was there nothing appeared save a pair of Titmice and a Chickadee. There was not a single species of any kind along the river path nor did I notice any higher up the river although I followed the shore closely.

I started back at 2 P.M. paddling to Ball's Hill where I landed and struck across the fields to the Barrett farm. In a pasture near Holden's great oak I saw a flock of 12 Robins accompanied by two Red-wings. As I was crossing the Barrett run a cock Partridge rose with a prodigious noise of wings and on my way back I flushed a keen little male Woodcock who creaked out over a field and back into the cover near the Red Pines. <sup>Several</sup> birds were seen or heard near the Barrett house but as I was standing on the slope behind the barn an Osprey came overhead high in air and hovered for minutes like a pair of adults

Woodcock in  
Barrett Run

Osprey

Concord, Mass.

1899  
April 5  
(No 2.)

Red-tailed Hawks soaring in company. One (the male) held a small snake dangling from its talons. The other had lost one of the primaries from the right wing, a good mark to remember & identify her by in the future. Both birds passed directly over me at a height not greater than 100 yards, and I watched them with the keenest enjoyment and admiration as they wheeled and rotated on set wings showing their red tails at every turn.

Red-tailed  
Hawks.

On reaching the canoe I hunted the birds and was soon driving nicely homeward before the brisk wind. As I got out into the Great Meadow I began to see Ducks rising from the water in pairs and small flocks at distances varying from a few hundred yards to a mile or more. They mounted high in air where, for a few minutes, they flew about aimlessly their numbers steadily increasing until one fifty birds were collected when they went off to the southward. Before I got across the meadows I had started at least twenty for a thirty more Ducks. I had no glass with me but I think more than half these birds were females and the remainder brooding. I also observed a pair of Black Ducks from a distance of about a mile. Earlier in the day I saw two adult Herring Gulls flying about near the cabin. Altogether it seemed quite like the old days to find so many water fowl on these meadows.

Water-fowl  
on the  
Great Meadows.

About a dozen Painted Tortoises on logs & boards among

Painted  
Tortoises on

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 6

Weather closely similar to that of yesterday but warmer & with less chill in the continued N.E. wind. I have not noticed a single cloud these past three days and nothing could be clearer than the air & landscape.

The birds were in full song again this morning and well into the forenoon. Near the house and on the way down river I heard on a tree Robins, four male Bluebirds (two accompanied by their mates), two Phoebe, two Meadow Larks (the first), two Cow-birds (do), three Song Sparrows (when are the multitudes that I have always found here before on this season?), numerous Red-wings, two White-bellied Swallows (the first), a Kingfisher (do), 2 Blue jays and a number of Crows. At the Cabin Gilbert had seen only a Chickadee, a Phoebe and a Downy!

Early morning  
singing.

Scarcity of  
Song Sparrows

First  
Swallows.

Gallini, whom I met hunting "rats", asserted that he had seen a flock of five Wood Ducks up the Appold but he is not very trustworthy about such matters. He had five or six Muskrats in the bow of his old skiff but he says that comparatively few have been killed this spring, Holden leading with some forty skins.

Wood Ducks

Muskrats.

After leaving some things at the cabin I kept on down river, paddling against the strong wind nearly to Cobble Bridge, and having a glorious fair back. I flushed a pair of Goosemovers from Holden's meadow and thirty or forty, with nearly as many more Whistlers, from the long, straight reach below Parish Island. Here only the river was open the meadows on both sides being covered with

Water fowl.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 6  
(no 2)

in which, on examination, I found to be from four to six or eight inches thick with an upper coating of white snow ice. Most of the Ducks were swimming near or standing along the edge of the ice but a few were lying on the ice apparently asleep. Some of them rose more than half a mile from me but several flocks followed me to paddle within less than 200 yards of them. The Gooseanders were nearly all in pairs although a number of pairs were often collected together into a small flock. At a distance the old ducks looked as white and almost as large as swans on the dark blue water. I do not think there was any immixture made for in any case when I saw two birds sitting together, one was a drake in full plumage, and the other its modest garbed mate. I do not remember to have ever seen so many fine old males here before.

Water-fowl.

Gooseanders

The rich salmon of their under parts was conspicuous enough when they passed me within three or four hundred yards. On the ice they stood rather erect but when walking they carried their bodies nearly horizontal like Mallards or Black Ducks. They walked easily and not ungainfully and once I saw one take a quick but short run just before rising on wing. When rising from the water they usually pattered their feet along the surface for a few yards before getting fairly fluffed but I saw a few spring directly into the air with almost as much ease & vigor as a Black Duck. This was invariably against a stiff breeze, however.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 7

Cloudy with a strong, damp S.W. wind which brought heavy rain shortly after nightfall.

Spent last night at the cabin. For the first time since I came to Concord this Spring the ground did not freeze yet the early morning was raw and gloomy and no birds were singing. There was been near the cabin water nearly none when a Chickadee & a pair of Downys visited the hut. Elliott also heard a Pine Warbler (the first) singing on the crest of Bald's Hill. There were no sparrows along the river front. Night at the Cabin.  
First Pine Warbler.

Ashton Rollins spent last night & to-day with me. He sailed over the Great Meadows and down river to Birch Island in the forenoon seeing an Osprey, 20 Green Herons, and 15 Killdeer. Landing at Davis's Hill we flushed two Partridge and found two Lapland 7-laps on the shore. No Water-fowl yet. Water-fowl.

The Davis Hill woods were seriously injured by the ice storm of March 19. The ground is so covered with broken off tops & branches that it is difficult to traverse these woods. The white pines, hickories, elms and maples suffered most. At the Barrett farm great injury was done especially to the fine old elm and hickories near the house. The ice is said to have loaded the trees & to have remained for several days, a heavy wind adding greatly to the destruction. Under white pines the ground is densely covered with tufts of green muds which the ice broke off. One of my white willows has been almost completely stripped of its lateral branches & is little more than a tree, bare pole. The white maples along the river suffered a good deal. Effects of ice storm.  
of March 19.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 7  
(no 2)

Sailed back to Concord in the afternoon landing at  
Dakin's Hill and visiting the Barrett farm.

Came upon three Bluebirds in Holden's pasture, a female  
sitting on a rock and two males dancing and fluttering  
about her with wide spread tails and half-opened wings,  
working in a deliciously soft undertone, each evidently striving  
to outdo the other in the display of his beautiful  
plumage and exquisite voice but without showing the  
least ill temper. It was indeed a pretty picture with  
its setting of bleached grass and a line of withering snow  
drifts against the old stone wall that formed the  
background. A Flicker was haunting in an oak and his  
mate Red-wings perched in an apple tree not far away.

Bluebirds

Looking for the Woodcock in the Barrett Run I found  
him within twenty yards of where he lay on the  
5<sup>th</sup> - the same small water bird evidently. I wonder  
if he will remain & breed here. (I afterwards learned that  
during the past week a Woodcock was heard singing several nights in succession  
near the small meadow W. of the Barrett house by Mrs. Geo. Holden & Henry Sawyer.)

Woodcock in  
Barrett Run.

In the Barrett woods the snow lies thin or gone but  
deep in many places - not in isolated drifts but  
in fields. acres in extent. But only, of course, in densely  
shaded spots. Almost everywhere in the shade the ground  
is free from as hard as iron.

Snow lies  
deep in  
the woods.

On my way home at evening I saw nothing of  
any interest. The sky was bleakening & the wind  
damp & chilly. No birds were singing.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 8

Cloudy with occasional short intervals of sunshine. Much the warmest day of the month thus far. Ther 42° at 8 A.M. 60° at 1 P.M. (Much cooler at evening with N.W. winds).

It rained heavily all last night but when I embarked sail down for Ball's Hill at 9 o'clock this morning there was only a fine mist falling and the clouds had begun to break in the west. A light breeze filled my sail and I glided silently and smoothly down stream between the rows of flooded vine mapsles. How the birds sang!

Birds singing.

It was worth all the long, dreary winter that has just passed to hear this one concert. Song Sparrows were really numerous and generally distributed for the first time. I counted twelve between the Hughes' and the cabin. There was also a good many Red wings (at least seen or sighted), two or three Flickers, three Bluebirds, & from Phoebe, near the house a Brown Creeper was singing at short, regular intervals, and just below Thirt's Bridge a Fox Sparrow sang twice in a timber very near me. I saw another of these Sparrows in the brush along the river near the cabin but there were no Song Sparrows there.

Song Sparrows

Creeper singing

Fox Sparrow

A Pair Wrenster sang once on Ball's Hill at about noon. An Osprey was flying about over Great Meadows and Gilbert saw a flock of eleven Herring Gulls.

Pair Wrenster.

Osprey.

Herring Gulls

At 11 A.M. as I was standing in front of the cabin a flock of seven Great Blue Herons passed overhead very high in air flying in close order like Geese for which I at first mistook them. They kept on out of sight due north. I cannot remember ever being so many migrating in company before.

A flock of  
Great Blue Herons



Concord, Mass.

1899  
April 8  
(No. 2)

Between 1 and 3 P.M., Ducks were passing and repassing Water-ford.  
Ball's Hill every few minutes in flocks of from five or six to fifteen or twenty birds each. Most of them were Golden-eyes, Whistlers.  
I could hear the silvery whistle of their wings with perfect distinctness as I sat writing in the cabin with the door open. They flew at a considerable height as a rule. The gunners were stirring them up as I heard a little later when the Jones Boys called and when Richardson & Herbert Holden passed. The Joneses showed me a fine about 3 Goswends which they had just shot. They have a grass screen which they attach to the bows of their little canvas canoe. They reported seeing a flock of eight birds which they took to be Brant, in the river near Birch Island. They paddled within about 50 yards when the birds rose with a chorus of low honks. They had black heads & necks and brown backs and were too small for Canada Geese. Henry Richardson afterwards told me that the flock passed directly over him and that he called them Black Ducks! Gilbert saw two Black Ducks pass the cabin and a flock of eleven Herring Gulls flew Davis's Hill. As I am writing this a pair of Gulls are circling over the river very near the cabin making the air ring with their wild, shrill cries (cle-ure, cle-ure, cle-ure). Altogether, this has been a great week for water fowl on the Concord. I do not think I have seen as many there for the past twenty years. Richardson tells me that he came upon a flock of one fifty Goswends this morning below Chelsea bridge. I must have seen fully fifty Whistlers passing Ball's Hill. If only the gunners would leave the Ducks & Muskrats alone.

Geese?

Herring Gulls

Goswends.

Concord, Mass.

1899.  
April 8  
(No 3)

It was nearly 5 o'clock when I left the cabin and started up river. The wind had died away and the sun reflected from the calm water was uncomfortably warm. Great numbers of Painted Tortoises were out on floating boards from which they tumbled into the water as I approached. I fear the gunners have destroyed most of the muskrats for we are none I saw yet.

Evening on  
the river.

Painted  
Tortoises.

Muskrate.

Landing at Dollin's Hill I went to the Bassett farm. It was so warm in the woods that I had to take off my coat & carry it on my arm.

Bassett  
Farm.

I saw several Song Sparrows along the stream walls.

Just after I reached the Bassett house the sun came out from behind a cloud and a Robin, a Bluebird, a Flicker & a Pine Warbler began singing in their old elms. Ten minutes later a violent north east wind arose and chilled us through & through. I had a hard paddle up river against wind & current & saw nothing of interest except five White-bellied Swallows flying about together among some stubs. Robins were singing everywhere this evening for the first time despite the gloomy skies and the strong cold wind. It was good to have them.

Birds singing  
at sunset.

Just before the wind rose a dozen or more Hylas were pupping nearby in the meadow below the orchard at the Bassett farm. They were the first that I have heard this Spring.

First  
Hylas.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 10

Clear and cool with keen, rather strong W. wind. The ground  
frozen hard and sheltered coverts on the flooded meadows strewed  
one with thin ice cover night. Wind changed to N. in P. M.

I heard a delightful concert of Robins, Song Sparrows & Bluebirds Early morning  
assisted by a few Sparrows or two, a Phoebe and a Meadow Lark, singing near  
early this morning, as I lay in bed with the windows open but the Keyes'.  
when I started for Ball's Hill at 9 a. M. The fields and  
acres were as white as the gloves for although the sun  
was shining brightly there was an icy chill in the keen  
west wind. It is singular how sensitive the birds are at  
this season to such influences. I saw a Red-tailed Hawk Red-Tail Hawk  
soaring high in air over the Derby farm, seven or eight  
the Swallows scattered along the river from Red Bridge to Free Swallows.  
Dakin's Hill and a few Red-wings and Song Sparrows.  
I also saw my first Mockers.

At Ball's Hill I found two pairs of Chickadees, a Song Sparrow, Birds at  
and a Fox Sparrow, the last in the same place and no doubt Ball's Hill.  
the self same bird that I noted on the 8<sup>th</sup>. There was also  
an Osprey circling about, whistling, and Gilbert reported a  
flock of four Whistlers. A solitary & Cassin's parakeet  
about noon flying up river.

Sailed home in afternoon landing at Dakin's Hill & going to the Barrett farm  
as usual. A Robin was singing in the Barrett duns and then a few  
Keyes (the first) were peeping in the neighboring run a little before sunset.  
Near the head of Great Meadow I saw a & Sharp-shinned Hawk  
skimming low over the water. Just as I reached the Keyes' there  
was a general outbreak of Robin song in every direction.

Gilbert saw three Fox Sparrows & three Song Sparrows near the  
cabin later in the afternoon.

Birds singing  
at evening.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 9

(no 2)

Edward W. Emerson told me this afternoon that on the morning of March 27<sup>th</sup> as he was dressing he heard a sound which he took to be the violent slamming of a door in the next room. On entering this room, a bed chamber in the second story at the N.E. end of the house, he noticed a heap of feathers clinging to the glass of one of the east windows and the next instant he perceived a Partridge standing on the roof of the piazza within a few feet of the window. The bird saw him almost immediately and flew swiftly off towards the Assabet. The snow on the roof was marked all over with its footprints. A few feathers attached to a bit of thin glass which had chipped on the glass were shown me as proof of this interesting story. The day was bright and the sun an hour or more high in the time. If this was a case of "Partridge madness" it is the first instance which, so far as I am aware, has ever been noted in spring. Partridges were seen before & after the above date budding in some apple trees on the opposite side of the road. They come, I guess, from the woods across the Assabet.

A "mad"

Partridge

Beverly, Mass.

1899.  
April 9

Cloudy most of the day with violent & very cold N. W. wind.

Early this morning when the sun was shining brightly and before the wind rose a number of birds were singing close around the house. Besides the usual Robins, Bluebirds, Song Sparrows, the Kinglets, Phoebe, Meadow Lark, & Flicker etc. I heard two Purple Finches and a Junco. Later in the day I found a single Junco and two Bluebirds in one open orchard. I fear the past terrible winter - especially terrible in the South - has well-nigh exterminated the Juncos. Like Fox and Song Sparrows are also exceedingly scarce comparatively. Of the latter I am doing worse when there should be hundreds and of the former I have three for some but two. Chickadees, also, are unusually scarce and I have yet to meet with the Rusty Blackbird. Red wings are common enough but very rarely come to look around in comparison with those of former years at this season. Meadow Larks are also very scarce. Robins, Bluebirds, & Flickers and Crows are present in their usual numbers.

Early morning  
singing at

Scarcity of  
Song Sparrows.

As I was returning from the Emersons this evening I met Fred Hoamer. He told me that he had seen a flock of about 12 Fox Sparrows accompanied by several Juncos at White Pond and two Fox Sparrows in another place, all this evening. During the home walk he saw in Dugan Brook meadow near Westhall Miles's (Miss Ann Corney) "a Plover about the size of a Meadow Lark, with a white ring around the neck and some conspicuous bright cinnamon brown on the back or wing. It was noisy and shy, flying from place to place, alighting on a shrub of ice, bobbing its head up & down as it stood watching him. When I imitated the cry of a Killdeer he said "that was the bird". William Emerson saw a Quail this morning near Putt's bridge

Killdeer

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 11

Brilliantly clear with rather strong N.E. wind. The ground  
frozen hard again last night & snow in covered ways of the  
shallower pond through the forenoon.

The usual birds singing about the barn this morning.  
Song Sparrows and Bluebirds song most of the forenoon.  
I heard the obliging Chon, with notes of a Lin Sparrow  
near the Buttricks & saw a solitary bird of the same species  
further down the river. Heard no less than five different  
Phoebe, one at the Kings', another at North Bridge, a  
third at Hildens' boat barn, a fourth at Hildens', the  
fifth at the Barrett farm. Gilbert reported a sixth singing  
at Noy's Hill early in the morning.

Early morning  
singing.

I started down river at ten o'clock this morning heading to  
Dakin's Hill where I landed and went to the Barrett  
farm. Pat told me that a Partridge had been downing  
there most of the morning. A Phoebe was flitting about  
the barn, singing.

Dined at the cabin. Then 7 or 8 Sparrows, then Song Sparrows, Birds at  
a pair of Downys & two or three Chickadees were flitting Balls' Hill.  
about. Gilbert started a Bittern (the first) from the path  
just east of the coal room.

Along the river on my way down I saw an Osprey, then  
Gossamers, two or three small flocks of Chistlers, and ten  
White-bellied Swallows.

The Osprey was perched on a stake, eating a large fish.  
Several crows were working him viciously. Gilbert tells  
me that he saw the same thing happen near the cabin  
this morning & that the Osprey (who was flying) was so  
hard pressed that he finally dropped his fish. The fish

Osprey

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 11  
(Wed)

in the water among some bushes directly in front of the cabin. The boys did not attempt to take it. I doubt if they even after the fish in other cases. Just as I was finishing the preceding sentence I heard an Osprey whistling and stopping and discovered him perched in the top of a white pine on the crest of Ball's Hill.

The water rose nearly a foot after the last rain and has since remained at about the same level. I have rarely seen it higher. The river path on Ball's Hill is submerged for half its length. A broad belt of ice still lies the opposite (Bedford) shore of the meadows.

*Anthropa Butorfly* is one in number now. Yesterday I saw a small brown *Butorfly*. On the 8<sup>th</sup> I found a number of large wasps on the inside of the front window of the Barrett house.

Butterflies.

Went to the Barrett farm on the way home. Heard the first horse fly crawling in the new south of the house. I have not heard any Hyles for several days. Disposed of eggs out in numbers this afternoon along the edges of the flooded meadows but not one of them made any sound.

First Wood  
Frog Crawling.

Saw a pair of Black Ducks flying over Great Meadow as I was starting homeward this evening.

Black Ducks.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

1899

April 12

Cloudy and cool with rain in P.M.

Just after breakfast this morning George Hayes saw two  
Pied-billed Grebes swimming in the river directly in front  
of the house. Gilbert saw three Field Sparrows on the cabin

Pied-billed

Grebes

I went to Cambridge by the 8 a.m. train. Found birds in  
two or three Robins in one garden. The Winter-throated Sparrows are garden  
was also there & in great numbers. Grackles appear to be very  
scarce in Cambridge this spring & only a few have visited  
one garden.

" 13

Clear with strong north west wind. Cool in the early  
morning. Warm at noon (therm. 56°).

Took a drive past the Poyson place & back by First Pond.  
Heard a Field Sparrow and saw a few Robins.

The Winter-throated singing in the garden at intervals through-  
out the day. Saw two Cedar birds there in the afternoon.  
The grass is quite green on some of the lawns.



Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 14

Sunny but heavy, barometer then 48° - 80° A.M.; 60° P.M. Winds varying from W. to E. in forenoon, S.W. in P.M.

Returned to Concord by the 9.10 A.M. train and spent the day down river dining at the cabin and visiting the Bascot Falls in the afternoon. Sailed across the meadows both going and returning.

A Purple Finch in fair song was the common, flock of 7 Tree Sparrows (singing) on Honychurch Island, two Kingfishers, flock of 20 White-bellied Swallows on the meadows, then Herring Gulls, then Bluebirds singing, about 18 Robins, two or three Phalaropes, and a fair number of Song Sparrows. A Swamp Sparrow was in front of the cabin by Gillett, 12 Black Ducks and 5 Green-winged Teal in Bedford Swamp, of Hattie Holden.

Birds along

the river.

In the open, treeless, springy run which empties into the meadow east of Dalton's Hill I flushed two Wilson's Snipe early this afternoon. George Holden tells me that he saw one in the same place about a week ago.

Wilson's Snipe

As I was paddling out into Great Meadows at about 5 P.M. I saw what I took to be a large duck floating on the water near the head of Howe Dam rapid. On getting nearer I made it out to be a Red-necked Grebe the first I have ever found here. It was preening its feathers & paid no attention to me until I was within about 80 yds. when it struck up its long, slender neck & a moment later took wing, rising heavily like a Swan. It circled low over the meadows flying very swiftly with its neck extended in front & its legs behind looking exceedingly like a Red-throated Diver. Before it left the water I saw distinctly

Red-necked

Grebe

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 14

(No 2)

that its smell was light or faded chocolate, its throat acrid, its claws dark brown. It finally relinquished further up the meadow but when I reached the place it had disappeared.

In the meadow at the edge of the woods just east of the old orchard on the Barrett farm Hylas and barrel frogs were in full cry late this afternoon. Judging by the volume of sound there must have been very many of them. I also heard dozens of leopard frogs around the edge of the same meadows. This is the first time I have heard the leopard frogs this season.

In a shallow ditch near Dalton's Hill I saw a large newt swimming among some water plants.

The snow has disappeared rapidly the last few days & there was but little left in the Barrett woods this afternoon. The ice went out of the meadow opposite the cabin on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>. The grass is very green in places near the village but the fields are as brown as in early March throughout the Ball's Hill region.

Leopard frogs  
Croaking for  
first time.

Snow going  
fast.  
Ice leaves  
the meadow.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 15 Clear with strong but warm N. W. to W. wind. Ther. 52° at 6.30 a.m., 66° at 1 P.M.

Spent the day down river visiting the Barre farm in the forenoon, dining at the cabin, and going to the Bedford Swamp in the afternoon. Started a Snipe in Dakin's meadow and a Hermit Thrush (Towhee) First Hummer in the Bedford Swamp. A Golden-crowned Kinglet was singing busily and a Partridge drumming in the Barre woods. In Holden's garden I heard a Grass Finch chirping but did not have time to follow up the sound. Along the river I saw a Kingfisher, and three Green Herons. Three Barred Owls and an Osprey near the head of Great Meadows. A Pair Warblers was singing on Ball's Hill. No Fox Sparrows have been observed near the cabin of late but I had a good view of one in the Bedford Swamp to-day. It was feeding among the leaves of the wood pecker and appeared to be a solitary bird. The scarcity of Fox Sparrows and Juncos has robbed this Spring of much of its charm for me. Song Sparrows, Song also, continue to be comparatively scarce and none have been seen at Ball's Hill since the 12<sup>th</sup>. The Rusty Blackbirds are also conspicuous by their entire absence here but I hear their numbers have been met with near Cambridge. Still another serious "miss" is the musical Peewee of the Red-shouldered Hawk. I saw one or two birds at Holden's Hill soon after my arrival & made me think they would breed there but they have not been either seen or heard since.

Snipe.

First Hummer.

Grass Finch.

Scarcity of

Fox Sparrows

& Juncos.

Sparrows also

scarce.

Rusty

Blackbirds

absolutely absent.

No Red-

shouldered

Hawks.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 15  
(No 2)

Horned Grebe

As I was crossing Holden's meadow early this afternoon I came upon a Horned Grebe, the first that I have ever found in Concord River. It had disengaged me and was swimming rapidly out into the rough water of the tidal current but it did not seem to be very much alarmed and after I had walked the canoe close inshore it began diving for food springing nearly clear of the water like a porpoise and remaining beneath the surface for periods varying from thirty to forty-two seconds. It remained in nearly the same place, decidedly very near shore but really in the river itself off the South end of Davis's Hill. I watched it for fifteen or twenty minutes through my glass. It was in the very fullest & richest ~~nesting plumage~~ <sup>as large as a duck</sup> ~~plumage~~ <sup>plumage</sup>. Its head looked very large & fluffy and the chestnut patch showed distinctly, the neck was slender & gracefully held.

When I started towards it again it swam out into the choppy sea and dived down stream keeping in the deepest part of the current and making a succession of remarkably long dives. Although I paddled hard I did not succeed in overtaking it until it turned into the meadow & then I did not get nearer at any time than about 100 yards for it doubled on me continually and went almost as far under water at each dive as a porpoise. When it came to the surface it invariably showed its whole body or at least as much of it as a Whistler or Old Squaw would have shown under similar circumstances. But from the moment when I began chasing it the loose, buff-like plumage of the head was pressed down so tightly that the head looked scarcely thicker than the thinnest neck. I could not make it fly & finally left it diving & diving.

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 16

A stormy day with heavy rain changing to snow in the afternoon. Wind N. E. Ground white with snow by nightfall.

I was confined to the house all day by a cold. Thence I looked out towards the flooded meadows I saw swarms of Swallows skimming close to the water both above and below Red Bridge. I would have given much to paddle up or down stream for a few miles just to see how many of these birds I could count. Judging by the numbers in the Wild Brook meadow (there were certainly thirty or more than!) they must have been very numerous on the Great Meadows. I have no doubt that most of them were White-bellies but they were too far off to be definitely identified.

Heavy flight  
of Tree Swallows

" 17

Clear and cold with strong north wind.

Although my cold was better I did not venture out for a short walk at noon.

Only a few birds singing; Song Sparrows in the forenoon, Robins at evening.

B Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 18

Brilliantly clear with fresh N. to N. W. wind. Much warmer - in fact very warm though the middle of the day.

Left the Heyes' this forenoon and moved to the cabin sailing most of the way with the canoe packed full of things. On reaching Ball's Hill found Parker awaiting me. He spent the night.

I leave the Heyes' & settle at Ball's Hill.

To the Barrett farm in P. M. Saw three Hermit Warblers together, two small flocks (4 & 5 birds) of Juncos & several Pine Warblers two of them in an apple tree in the middle of Barrett's farm far from any woods. A Green Finch singing on the Barrett place. Two Tree Sparrows near the river. Three Fox Sparrows along the path E. of the cabin.

The "April hush" has fallen on the land. This evening, just before sunset, when Parker and I walked through the fields to Barrett's not a single bird of any kind was heard singing. They began to sing rather nearly a week ago & yesterday & to-day there was a general silence at all hours. The Pine Warblers sang, however,

The April hush begins.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

April 24

Clear and very warm with fresh S. E. wind. Ther. 54° at 6 a.m.,  
64° at 4 P.M.

Spent the forenoon at Ball's Hill. In the afternoon went  
to the Barrett farm - by canoe as far as Davis's Hill.

Early this morning a pair of Mute Ducks and a Little Coot Black Ducks  
a single bird passed the hill flying high in a southerly  
direction. Surely there must be local birds.

About 8 a.m. a ♀ Pine Warbler made several visits  
to the cabin in search of nesting material. She tapped  
persistently but ineffectually at some twigs which was  
tied to an oak and picked up and carried off a  
little oakum from the ceiling of our log walls. She  
flew to the east of the hill, where the ♂ was singing  
as usual. The same thing occurred last spring at  
about this time. Apparently the ♂ Pine Warbler does  
not accompany his mate when she is looking for  
nesting material.

Pine Warbler  
building  
nest.

A Hermit Thrush was singing gloriously but latter voice  
in a dense thicket of young white pines on the  
Barrett farm this afternoon. Rarely have I heard a  
fine performance although at a distance of thirty yards  
I could only just hear the lower notes. I estimated the  
distance by the bird's chuck for I did not see him.  
In the little opening where I was standing a pair  
of Antelope Bunting were singing with one another  
in the same direction.

Hermit Thrush  
singing in  
Barrett woods

Concord, Mass.

1899

April 24

(No 2)

A Partridge was drumming this afternoon in the Bennett run and another in Prescott's pines was the road to the Gun Field, ~~both~~ on Horn vells. Gilbert heard a third in the Blackman woods. I think that the bird in Prescott's pines was the same that I heard yesterday at the north end of Davis's Swamp (where the drumming stand is a small bog) and I also believe that the Blackman bird is the one we hear so frequently at the east end of Ball's Hill. In other words I think that each bird has two drumming stations.

Partridges  
have more  
than one  
drumming place.

A few Robins came to the Spring brook in the dawn pines behind Ball's Hill this evening. All appeared to be awake and there was, as usual, much singing and calling. I was astonished to ~~see~~ hear one bird sing on wing. I heard him in the distance at first. When he appeared he was flying in the usual manner over cotton Hardy. He continued his song without the slightest break when and after he reached his perch on the topmost spray of a tall pine. There was nothing peculiar about the song. Evidently it was not a real flight song but the bird was simply so full of his theme that he could not wait until he reached the end of his short journey.

Robin songs.

Robin sings  
on wing.

There was a solitary Yellow Palm Warbler about the cabin yesterday and again this evening. Gilbert saw a single Yellow-rump on the 17<sup>th</sup>. I miss sadly the large mixed flocks of these Warblers which we usually see at this season and for that nearly all must have perished in the south last February.

Scarcity of  
early Warblers.



Concord, Mass.

1899

April 25 Sun shining dimly through thin clouds or dense haze; no wind; an oppressively hot and very warm day for the season. Thunder showers late in the afternoon. Ther. 54° at 6 a.m., 80° at 1 P.M.

Spent the entire day at Ball's Hill - the forenoon directing Benson's work on a new wood path which I am springing to reach the north-eastern base of the Hill. Saw a White-throated Sparrow by the river and heard a Ruby-crown and a Solitary Vireo singing behind the Hill. Saw, also, a single Yellow-crope. At about noon a Black and White Cuckoo began singing near the cabin. The first and last named, with the Vireo, were noted for the first time here this season.

Arrivals.

Early this morning two Herons, flying together, appeared over Ball's Hill. They were almost as high up as Geese fly. After circling over the Great Meadows they turned back and on reaching Davis's Hill turned again and went off over the forest to the eastward. One of them uttered a deep, raucous note unlike anything that I remember to have heard before. One was distinctly larger than the other. They carried their legs stretched out behind & their necks well stretched. Through the glass I could see that they were striped on the under parts and that their bills were long and slender. They certainly were not Night Herons & I am nearly sure they could not have been Great Blue Herons. They looked like Bitterns but I have never seen the Bittern fly at such a height nor heard it utter such a cry.

Pendle's Flight  
& Call notes  
of the Bittern

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

April

The following species were observed in the garden by  
W. Deane:

Birds  
noted in our  
garden by  
Mr. Deane.

1. Merula migratoria. - Constantly present at least one or two  
being seen daily while they were counted  
on the 10<sup>th</sup>, four on the 15<sup>th</sup> & three on  
the 11<sup>th</sup>. They were eating the little Parthman's  
apples on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.

2. Parus atricapillus. - 1<sup>②</sup> 3<sup>①</sup> 4<sup>③</sup> 5<sup>②</sup> 6<sup>①</sup> 7<sup>①</sup>. On every day  
but the last they were seen eating sweet.

3. Ampelis cedrorum. - A flock of 75 on the 1<sup>st</sup>, one of  
30 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 2 birds on the 13<sup>th</sup>.  
These seen on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> were eating  
the fruit of Parthman's apple.

4. Spiraea socialis. - Two males singing in the garden  
on the 24<sup>th</sup> & one on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

5. Zonotrichia albicollis. - One in full plumage, no doubt  
the same bird which frequented the garden  
during the whole of March, was seen three  
in April by Mr. Deane on the 1, 4, 5, 6,  
8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, & 21. He sang  
freely after the 8<sup>th</sup> his voice gaining  
steadily in strength & clearness until,  
towards the close of his song, it had  
nearly or quite attained the perfect  
characteristic of the breeding season.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

April

6. Passercula iliaca. - Two, apparently a pair, scratching among the sun flower stalks, the male singing alternately by itself, on the 8<sup>th</sup>, one on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and a fourth on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Birds noted in our garden by W. Deane.

7. Leucoscops z. cinereus. - 2 ♂ flying one, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>.  
A flock was also seen in the Smith's place, Beulah Street on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, twenty birds being counted on the latter date.

8. Corvus americanus. - Six flying one high on the 1<sup>st</sup> & a higher bird seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

9. Cyanocitta cristata. - One heard screaming in the garden on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

10. Dryobates pubescens. - 1 ♂ on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup> and off.

11. Colaptes auratus. - A <sup>male</sup> ~~female~~ frequented the garden during the whole month. On the 5<sup>th</sup> he began working on the entrance of artificial nesting box covered with bark which I had put up in an elm in the jungle. After this date and the ~~two other birds~~ frequently visited the box and pecked away at the edges of the entrance hole which I finally (on the 14<sup>th</sup>) enlarged for him. On the 15<sup>th</sup> he appeared at the box accompanied by a ♀. After looking in & pecking the edges of the hole for about 10 minutes the ♂ entered. Soon after this both birds flew away together. Flicker's nest in artificial box.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

April

12. Branta canadensis. - At about 1 P.M. on the 12<sup>th</sup> birds  
a flock of 60 Canada Geese passed within in one  
over the garden flying a little west garden of  
of east. W. Deane.

13. Passer domesticus. - A moderate number.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 1

Clear, calm, oppressively hot (ther.  $88^{\circ}$  at 1 P.M.). Resumption of a hot wave  
thunder showers from 6 to 9 P.M. cooling the air (to  $68^{\circ}$  - 8 P.M.)

When I awoke this morning I heard a Redstart singing Arrivals  
near the cabin and soon after wards a Cat-bird. Walked  
around the hill just after breakfast & heard a Christine-bird  
Warbler in the blueberry bush. Later in the forenoon heard  
an Oven-bird in Prescott's pine and then Marsh-worms  
on the Barrett farm birds two more Christine-birds  
and two Pearl Warblers. In the afternoon heard an  
Ear Swallow on the W. Bedford hill of the river and  
also saw a Whippoorwill flying near Benson's. All  
these were "arrivals".

There was also a great increase in the number of Black &  
White Crows and a Higbee one in that of Black-throated  
Green (of the former I heard at least fifteen notes flying.  
Song Spicebush had also arrived in force (I heard the  
first on the 28<sup>th</sup>).

Evidently the warm wave had brought a good flight  
of early May birds. It is curious to find some bird life  
in the woods at least after the well-nigh birdless April.  
But where are the Mourning Thrushes? I have yet to  
hear any first. Song Sparrows are fitfully heard. Swamps  
unusually numerous. Red-wings are now in their usual  
numbers.

Vegetation is advancing by leaps & bounds. Shad brook &  
Corn order in bloom to-day. Apple buds almost open on  
early trees. March willow in bloom yesterday.

Vegetation

Spent the forenoon at the Barrett farm, the afternoon  
near the cabin & on the opposite side of the river.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 2

Cloudy most of the day, the forenoon calm and hazy, a cool east wind in the afternoon. Two thunder showers passed to the southwest. Temp. 65° at 6 A.M., 69° at 1 P.M.

Arrivals: - Wilson's Thrush, one calling near the cabin early in the morning; Brown Thrasher, one singing gloriously on the W. Bedford shore at 8 A.M.; Water Thrush, one singing near the cabin, Mayland Yellow-throat, one singing in the swamp behind Ball's Hill; Bobolinks, a number of song coming at first from directly over the cabin, again from beyond the crest of Ball's Hill at 3 P.M., evidently from a bird migrating at the time.

Arrivals

Down-birds singing in every direction this morning. Two White-throated Sparrows at the Barnyard Spring. An immature Bald Eagle in a pine on Davis's Hill. I no doubt the same bird seen April 29<sup>th</sup>. A White-breasted Nuthatch calling not-not-not in Parker's orchard. Yellow-rumped Warblers heard calling. ♂ Hairy Woodpecker on Ball's Hill.

Bald Eagle

At evening, as twilight was falling I saw at least 300 Swallows skimming close over the meadows under the lee of a high bank which sheltered them from the keen E. wind. They kept alighting on some isolated thickets of broken bushes & in clusters as dense as an of the hem in autumn. About two-thirds of the flock were White-bellies, the remainder Barn Swallows.

Big flock  
of S. alba

First Dragon Fly (two) seen

First  
Dragon Fly

Spent the forenoon on the W. Bedford shore getting wild flowers. Went to the Barnyard fence in the afternoon by way of Davis's Hill. Woods silent. Only a Phoebe in the old orchard. Antennae. Red Winkers, a Mayland Yellow-throat, a Red-start, Carpenter & Swamp Sparrows singing in the swamp behind Ball's Hill this morning.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 3

Cloudy up to 10 a. m. Remainder of day clear with strong, cold N. E. wind. Ther. 48° - 6 a. m.; 66° - 1 P. m.

No arrivals noted and no apparent increase in the numbers of the species already here. The raw E. wind discouraged singing on the part of the Woodpeckers but the Red-wings and Song Sparrows sang more freely than has been the case for some time.

A Solitary Vireo was in full song in the oaks near the cabin at noon and earlier in the day I saw a little company of three Yellow-rumps at the east end of the hill.

On the W. Bedford shore I saw a flock of 25 Red-wings and two pairs of Song Sparrows.

At the Barrett farm later in the afternoon I heard a Chipping sparrow and two Great Flycatchers & a Towhee calling. The apple trees in the old orchard are green with small leaves and fairly thick with fruit buds on the point of bursting. It seems strange that there are so few birds there.

At evening as I was strolling through the pines just behind Ball's Hill I heard a single drum tower over Holden's meadow. A Virginia Rail was calling cutee in the Hackberry swamp and Robins <sup>was</sup> singing and calling all around me in the pines. One bird was a typical singer with an unusually clear, full voice.

Elbert saw two Wilson's Thrushes near the cabin & I heard one calling this evening. Late this afternoon I heard an Ovenbird give the flight song.

Shad birds are in full bloom nearly everywhere now. Sometimes in flower in front of the cabin.

Solitary Vireo

Scarcity of  
birds at  
Barrett's farm.

Birds at  
Ball's Hill.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 4

Clear and cool with strong N. to N. E. wind. Therm.  $36^{\circ}$  at 6 a.m.,  $66^{\circ}$  at 1 P.M. A hard frost last night killing ferns, asparagus & even the tender leaves of trees, but only on upland.

For the first time this spring the woods about the cabin were swarming with birds this morning. I heard them singing at sunrise & when I got out at 6.30 I found the trees alive with them. There were fully fifty Yellow-throats, several Parula, Nashville & Great - throated Green Warblers, a Yellow Robin Warbler, a Redstart, a Water Thrush, several Chestnut-sided & a Solitary Vireo. I do not think these had arrived during the night but on the contrary believe that they had come from the colder inland woods to the sunny, sheltered, southern slope of the hill where they were protected from the raw north wind. They clustered all along the river front from the east end of the bridge to Morris Landing & many of them remained through the forenoon although the flock diminished steadily after ten o'clock before the sun came.

As I was digging Lewis' Hoppers on Davis' Hill in the forenoon I lost an im. Bald Eagle & heard a Great Yellowlegs & an Osprey. Late in the afternoon I saw the Eagle again. A Marsh Hawk & two night hawks also passed Davis' Hill at 8 P.M.

To the Barre farm in P.M. Nothing singing within hearing of the house save a Purple Finch. Saw a Heron in the birds field & heard another opposite the cabin early this morning. Two King birds along the river at evening (common).

I cannot understand the affair & almost total absence of birds on the Barre farm. I saw only two there a Robin & a Phoebe. First apple blossoms only out open.

A cold wave of migrants drives the birds from inland to the river.

Bald Eagle.  
Great Yellowlegs  
Osprey.

Birds still scarce at the Barre farm.



Concord, Mass.

1899

May 5

Brilliantly clear with cool E. wind. Ther.  $48^{\circ}$  6 a.m.,  
 $60^{\circ}$  1 P.M.,  $51^{\circ}$  - 8 P.M.

Six or eight Yellow-rumps, three or four Parula Warblers, two or three Warblers, a Chestnut-side, a Redstart & a House Wren were singing near the cabin this morning. Three birds appeared to be the remnants of the flock seen in the same place yesterday and not fresh arrivals. Across the river a House Wren was singing. On the edge of a pool in Parker's pasture a Solitary Sandpiper was feeding.

Early morning  
singing at  
Ball's Hill.

Spent the forenoon digging wild flowers in Merri's woods & along the railroad embankment where there was a wonderful display of anemones and violets on a tract that had been recently burned over.

Wild flowers

To Cambridge by the 4:20 P.M. train. Found two Yellow Warblers singing in the old garden and W. Deane afterwards told me that he saw them there this morning, the first for the season. Bothrops also said there to-day for the first time. Deane says an Oriole yesterday. The cherry trees were all in full bloom - a beautiful sight.

Cambridge.  
Birds in the  
garden.

Cherry trees  
in full bloom.

Deane also told me that there have been very few birds in the garden the past month - especially the latter half of it. There have been two or three Robins, a pair of Flickers which are apparently going to nest in a bark covered box which I put up for them, & an occasional Chipping. The first Purple Finch appeared yesterday, where a Redstart also arrived.

East Lexington, Mass.

1899.

May 6

Forenoon cloudless; afternoon slightly cloudy or very hazy.  
Barometer with light S.W. wind. Ther. 48° - 6 A.M., 72° - 1 P.M.  
58° - 8 P.M.

Took the 8.34 A.M. train to East Lexington where I met O.A. Bathrop and A.H. Hathaway by appointment. They had brought their boat in a wagon and had landed it in the flooded meadows where we were to spend the forenoon looking for Grebes' nests. Within fifteen minutes from the time we left the shore we found two one with 7, the other with 8 eggs. Both were in thickets of Sweet Gale, within thirty yards of the railroad embankment, anchored heavily among the stems of the Grebes but floating in clear water about two feet deep. The set of screens was increased, those of light almost completely hidden by a thin layer of moss & water plants which the bird had evidently drawn over the egg just before leaving them. Both nests were very neat and compact and very buoyant also as I found by pressing them down with my hand. The eggs lay in a saucer-shaped depression the bottom of which was only slightly (less than an inch) above the surface of the water. The entire nest was looking wet & its materials fresh & green seen on the very top where there was a thin layer of light brown material that gave it the appearance of floating meadow "trash". Each nest was almost perfectly round and the cover on was slightly domed-shaped but its top rose scarcely two inches above the water & it would not have attracted the attention of any one who was unfamiliar with the Grebe's peculiar manner of nesting. Indeed I did not see either nest until it was pointed out to me although I

*Nestling of  
Pied-bill Grebe*

East Lexington, Mass.

1899  
May 6  
(No 2)

was looking "with all my eyes". The Great Gull, already in half bay, gave some flutter, of course, but even had it been Chaps the character of the nests was such that they might have been easily overlooked at a distance of a few yards.

Later we found a third nest with seven eggs, in a more open place among scrubby, Chaparral Boston Boulders. This nest was similar in every way to the other two. Very near it was a partly finished nest which the boys considered a "bluff nest". We saw many of these "bluff nests" elsewhere. They were evidently the work of the Grackles but whether built to draw attention away from the real nests or merely structures which had been abandoned because the birds found for some reason unsatisfactory I was unable to determine. The eggs in this last nest were fresh for they broke when placed in the water. Out of the eight which I took were incubated to judge by the way they behaved when subjected to the test just mentioned.

We did not catch sight of a single Gull the whole forenoon but they were very noisy at times. Almost immediately after we had left a nest the birds lit up a wood entirely near it in tons, as it seemed to me, of triumph and our supposed inability to discover it.

We found a Red-wing's nest with one egg (an early date, a Brown Grackle's with three eggs (nest in Boston Rock only a foot above the water) and a Bluebird's (in a crotch of the tree) with five eggs.

We heard several Carolina Wrens, a "Big Grackle", & a Yellow-throated Vireo besides many common birds

Nesting of  
Red-bellied

Red-wing's nest  
Grackle's "  
Bluebird's "

The Big Grackle  
heard

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 6  
(no 3)

I returned to Concord by an early afternoon train.  
Between Lexington & Bedford I saw some very  
thing birds flying over the fields.

Walking at evening around the coast end of Ball's Hill  
I saw a pair of House Ducks & the immatures of  
those who have been frequenting this locality of late.

A Virginia Rail was calling canta on Great Meadows &  
another gave the pig notes in the blueberry swamp  
behind the Hill where I think there is likely to be  
a nest or with later.

The Robins come into this swamp to roost as usual  
- about a dozen of them, all males I think.

They are visiting this spring in the blueberry bushes  
- not in the pines as formerly.

Black Ducks

Goldfinches

Robin <sup>nest</sup>

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 7.

Cloudless with light W. wind. Very warm at midday. Therm. 56°  
6 A.M. 72° - 6 P.M.

Arrivals.. Yellow-throated Vireo, two singing on Davis's Hill;  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, one singing on W. Mayfield House early  
in the morning & afterwards near the cabin; Baltimore Oriole, two  
at Concord, one seen by Miss Marion Hayes, the other by H. Holden;  
Hummingbird, one at Concord by Miss Marion Hayes; Least  
Sandpiper, one at the Hill; Carolina Rail, two on Great  
Meadow singing after dark.

Arrivals

Walking to Davis's Hill this morning (8-9 A.M.) I found the  
woods and swampy thickets alive with warblers all of which  
belonged to one summer fauna. Chestnut-sided, Orange & Black-  
throated Green being the most numerous.

Heavy flights  
of Warblers.

In the afternoon I paddled to Concord. Saw several spotted  
Sandpipers, one Least S. and at least half Solitary Sandpiper  
along the river banks & heard Mottled in one or two places.

In the Hayes' pasture at sunset a Snow Bunting was singing  
gloriously & a Yellow-rumped Sparrow gave the striking song.  
I heard two other Thrushes earlier in the day.

Left the Hayes' at 8.15 P.M. and reached the cabin at 8.45.  
The night was dark, damp & still the stars very bright.  
Two Carolina Rails and a Virginia were singing in Great Meadow  
One of the Carolines I recognized at once as a bird which sang  
in the town place (about opposite Brewer's landing) last year.  
It has a peculiar voice which I described in my journal of last  
year. A Swamp Sparrow was also singing steadily  
opposite the cabin when I landed.

Carolina Rail  
with peculiar  
voice of last  
year  
on Great M.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 8

Fairly clear, afternoon heavy. Moderate & cool E. wind.

I passed a restless night and whenever I was awake the Swamp Sparrow that I heard when I landed at Bow's Hall last evening, and after words (from 8 to 10 P. M./as. I sat writing in the cabin, was singing at short, regular intervals. I believe that he sang through the entire night, which was clear and starlit but nevertheless rather dark. The only other Sparrow which I have ever heard sing steadily, regularly and frequently at night is the Henslow's,

Swamp  
Sparrow  
sings all  
night

Chickadees, Lined Warblers, Redstarts, Black Throated Vireos, Black & white Cuckoos, Oven birds, Red. wings, a Grosbeak & a White-throated Sparrow were singing over the cabin early this morning.

I spent the forenoon at the Barrett place working both ways through the woods. The country was literally alive with birds but the only species new to my list was a Blackburnian Warbler when very long I heard in some tall pines on the Davis woods behind Beacon's. There was a good many White-throated Sparrows & I saw two Yellow-rumps. All the other birds belonged to species which spend the summer here.

Blackburnian  
Warbler arrives

I found a Partridge's nest with 12 fresh looking eggs in a patch of Hackberry bushes under a Red Pine on the north edge of the Barrett nest with them about 50 yards from the drumming well & 40 yards from the site of the nest with 13 eggs which I photographed last year. We were throwing out bushes & Mr. Ditty cut down a large one that stood within 15 feet of the nest. As it fell the Partridge rose flying slowly about like a Red. The tree fell within a yard of the nest. We had been talking & cutting other trees close about the first. An

Partridge's  
nest with  
12 eggs

1899.

May 8

Concord, Mass.

(To Wayside Inn, Sudbury, in P.M.)

May 1<sup>st</sup> I finished a pair of Partridge within 60 yards of this nest. They rose together within four feet of an another. I started a mole this morning about 100 yards from the nest. I have not heard a Partridge down since April 28<sup>th</sup> although I have been in their haunts daily & out all homes.

A pair of Phoebe have a nest in a wooden hole in a beam in the barn cellar on the Barre place. I found it April 28<sup>th</sup> when it was nearly finished. 2-day it held four eggs. Neither of the birds was about. I have not heard a Phoebe sing for some days. (Five eggs laid; hatched May 27; young left nest June 11<sup>th</sup>)

Phoebe's  
nest with  
4 eggs.

Here is a list of the birds that I saw or heard within flying in the orchard at the Barre place early this forenoon: -

Birds noted  
at Barre

1 Robin, 2 Chickadees, 2 Chestnut-sided Mockers, one Black-brown Anger, 1 House Wren, 1 Dove bird, Barn Swallows, Bank Swallows, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 1 Solitary Bird, 1 Grass Finch, 1 Field Sparrow, 1 Cowbird, 1 King bird, 2 Barn & Gygis, 2 Chipping Sparrows, 1 Flicker, heard Chipping Swifts. The Phoebe might also be added on the strength of the note. In all the list includes nineteen species.

In the afternoon I paddled to Concord and thence down to the Wayside Inn where I spent the night. On the way up the river I saw a number of Solitary & Spotted Sandpipers and heard a Bobolink & Meadowlark. Along the road from Concord to Sudbury I saw nothing but the common birds. Snow-bush going out of bloom. Apple trees coming into bloom. The season is now in advance of the average at this date.

To the  
Wayside Inn,  
Sudbury.

1899.

May 9

Wingside Inn, Sudbury, to Hudson, Mass.

(Return to Concord in P.M.)

Cloudless with light N. to S. E. winds. Ther. 72° at 1 P.M.

Left Wingside Inn at 9 A.M. and drove to Hudson (8 miles) Drive from  
 passing through a beautiful country diversified by farms and Wingside Inn  
 woodland with oaks and pines of the largest size and to Hudson  
 many fine & very old chestnuts blooming along the roadside.  
 The woods and thickets were in that exquisite but so very Vegetation  
 exuberant condition when they appear to be veiled in  
 tender green, pink, salmon and rose gray with the  
 unfolding lappets. The bear oaks were in full bloom.  
 A few apple trees in bloom, others pink with half-  
 opened buds. There were many birds chiefly Birds  
 of the common kinds. I am very sure that I heard  
 a Prairie Warbler in Northborough. In the villages we  
 heard Orioles & Warbling Vireos with Yellow-throats  
 Vireos also. ~~Star~~ Bobolinks, Meadow Larks & Grass Finches  
 were on hand everywhere.

Returned to Concord by train from Hudson at noon  
 and at 3 P.M. started down river. Heard a  
 Bobolink at Haverhill, a Meadow Lark near Fitch's bridge.

Return to  
Concord.

Solitary & Spotted Sandpiper were numerous all  
 along the river banks in marshy places. On a flat  
 at the base of Dobbins' Hill upwards of a dozen of  
 both species were collected & with them was eight  
 Greater Yellow-legs which were so tame that they allowed  
 me to handle within 25 yards of them before they rose  
 & flew off with great clamor. I also saw a Bittern &  
 a fine adult Night Heron, both standing on the river bank.  
 Parson joined me at 5:30. He walked around the house  
 at evening but heard only a few birds.

Sandpiper &  
Yellow-legs.

Night Heron



Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 10

Cloudless with light N. to N.W. wind. Ther. 52° - 62° A.M.,  
73° - 1 P.M., 59° - 8 P.M.

Arrival -- Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

In a.m. (8-10) walked to Davis Hill by the river path  
and back around Ball's Hill. Found only common  
birds and not many of them.

To Barrett farm via Davis Hill in P.M. Heard the  
five Cuckoos, a Yellow-bill, in the Barrett pasture.

Yellow-billed  
Cuckoo arvensis

Visited the Partridge's nest in the Barrett run and  
found it all right with no additional eggs. The bird  
seen at 10 yds. distance flew about 10 feet (he had  
to fly to get clear of the dense huckleberry bush)  
then dropped to the ground and ran until out  
of sight crossing several open spaces and moving in  
a crouching position with his head close to the ground.

Partridge's nest.

This behavior was so widely similar to that of the  
bird that had the nest with 13 eggs last season that  
I am satisfied they are one & the same individual.

Heard two Thrashers to-day one behind Ball's Hill  
the other in the Barrett pasture. In the dense young  
pines near Purple Rock an Olive-backed Thrush was in full  
song at least making the woods ring.

Thrashers.

Swainson's Thrush  
in full song.

As I was paddling up from Davis Hill in the  
evening twilight I heard rather Yellow-legs whistling.  
I saw a pair of Black Ducks flying over Ball's Hill,  
Apple trees in nearly full bloom to-day.

Yellow-legs.

Black Ducks

Apple trees in  
nearly full bloom

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 11

Forenoon clear with hot, dry & very strong W. to S. W. wind. Clouds gathering in the afternoon bringing at about 4 P.M. a shower that lasted over an hour and did an immense amount of good (the country has been suffering badly for rain for nearly two weeks). Ther. 53°-62° A.M., 68°-71° P.M., 54°-8° P.M.

Arrivals. Red-eyed Vireo 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Ball's Thrush

Arrivals.

Howland's Sparrow 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Springy, bushy near behind Holden's.

In the forenoon Pondin & I crossed the river and walked up the track towards Concord looking for wild flowers but finding nothing of much interest. Heard a Bobolink, a Field Sparrow & numerous Cuckoo & constant loud whistles. Saw a flock of about 15 lesser Sandpeeps flying over the meadows.

Lesser Sandpeeps

To the Baxter farm by way of the river & Hall's this in the afternoon. After the shower we started back. Two Towhees singing, one in the tree, the other west of the road.

In a Springy run filled with thickets of Hops covered & broken by mounds & hummocks directly behind Holden's barn a Howland's Sparrow was singing. In a near Holden's orchard on board three Orioles and a Bobolink. Sam Bonebottom was coming about the road back near the by all. As we approached the river we saw a flock of five Night Herons circling over the Great Meadows and a little later as we were heading down toward the Greater Yellow-birds passed. The sun streaming through a rent in the clouds cast a wonderful light over the woods & meadows. Heard two Virginia Rails & one Carolina. The Ptarmigan perching in the usual places.

Howland's Sparrow

Night Herons

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 12

Clear with strong, cool N. to N.W. wind. Ther. 52°-60° A.M.,  
73°-1 P.M. 59°-8 P.M.

Arrivals: - Wilson's Black-cap Warbler, 1<sup>st</sup>, thickets east of  
cabin, Scarlet Tanager 1<sup>st</sup>, Ball's Hill, 8 W. Bedford.  
Indigo Bird, Coastal Black-throated Blue Warbler, 1<sup>st</sup>, Ball's Hill, Nighthawk, 1.

Arrivals

The woods about the cabin were alive with birds this morning. No doubt most of them had come from more exposed places to the sheltered, sunny slope of Ball's Hill as they usually do when there is a strong N. wind but there had evidently been a flight from the South during the night although not, I think, a heavy one.

Birds again driven  
in numbers to  
the sheltered side  
of Ball's Hill  
by a cold N. wind

At and shortly after sunrise, as I lay awake listening to the concert of voices, I noted the following species, Robins, Wood Thrush (1), Chickadee, Black & white Creeper, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Water Thrush, Cat bird, Redstart (2), Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Red-winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, Chipping Sparrow, Carolina Wren, Virginia Rail, Wren. To this list may be added the Wilson's Black-cap Warbler, heard singing near the cabin at breakfast time.

Birds singing  
near the  
cabin at  
sunrise.

After breakfast Pondin & I walked around the big blueberry swamp. It was filled with birds but we noted nothing new although a number of species not on the above list were here or heard. Such as the Maryland Yellow-throat, Pine Warbler, Swamp Sparrow, Nashville Warbler etc. There were three adult male Redstarts at the east end of Ball's Hill & one or two more beyond.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 12  
(Tue 2)

We took the 9.06 a.m. train to Concord where C. & B.R.S. Drive from  
met us with the buggy and whomever we drove together to Concord to  
Lexington. Heard an Indigo Bird singing near the Emersons Lexington.  
& saw several Noddybills (on a g.) and a Meadow Lark  
in John Mann's meadow. Orioles were abundant all  
along the road. & I heard Warbling Vireos in Lexington.

I returned to Ball's Hill by an early afternoon train.  
After tea I walked to Benven's farm ridge and back  
by way of the wood shed. It was a perfect evening,  
clear with a gentle breeze from the north. The birds  
were singing gloriously - all but the Wilson's Thrushes which  
are still silent. The Wood Thrush heard this evening  
was the cabin had walked his way northward as far  
as Davis's Hill where he was singing steadily. He had a  
wing, broken long of inferior quality. As I stood listening  
to him a Nighthawk passed directly over me flying  
due north at a rapid rate & no doubt migrating.

Evening at  
Ball's Hill.

Wood Thrush  
singing at cabin  
on early morning,  
near Davis's Hill  
at evening.

The Holden meadows east of Ball's Hill seemed to be alive  
with Raids of both species which were very noisy at times.  
When I got back to the cabin two Virginia Rails were singing  
in their meadows and whenever I was awake during  
the following night I heard their hoarse voices. I have no  
doubt that they called incessantly through the entire night,  
as they have done for several nights past. Both birds say  
cutter-cutter-cutter.

Rails booming in  
Holden's meadows


A Bittern was pumping in the Holden meadows just before  
sunset. I had a fair view of him & watched him for a  
long time. He bobbed and stretched his neck just

Bittern seen  
pumping.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 12  
(Wed)

Before he began snapping his bill. During the snapping (Bittern)  
his throat was puffed out and drawn in very like a Trumpet. Jumping 1/  
When jumping he thrust his head forward & back but not  
at all forcibly. I could not see his breast. When not jumping  
or snapping he stood erect and held his bill pointing upward  
at an angle of about 45°.  Early in the afternoon  
I heard a deep, low croaking sound and hearing  
out saw three Bitterns flying low over the river past the cabin  
in company. They turned and went off over the woods  
on the Bedford side of the river. As a rule the Bittern  
flies with head & neck extended but these birds had their  
heads drawn in like Greater Herons. (cf. note under April 25<sup>th</sup>.)

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 13

Forenoon sunny and warm but hazy with light S.W. wind. Afternoon cloudy with strong W. wind. Light showers in the early evening. Ther. 57° 6 a.m., 71° 1 p.m., 53° 8 p.m.

Arrivals:- Black & Yellow Warbler 1 ♂ (Ball's Hill), Canadian Warbler, 1 ♂ (Davis's Hill), Golden-winged Warbler 3 ♂ (Barrett farm), Lincoln's Finch, 3 (Ball's Hill & Benson's), Great Crested Flycatcher 1 ♀, (Barrett orchard).

An immense flight of migrants, most have arrived last night for the country was swarming with them this forenoon. They were nowhere in flocks but, on the contrary, evenly distributed everywhere throughout the woods and thickets, at least between Ball's Hill and the Barrett place. There was no fair wind to drive them into sheltered places and the foliage is now so advanced that shade and food can be had in the thickest thickets. At Ball's Hill there were not nearly so many birds as yesterday morning. I was awoken at daybreak and heard but little singing and that of the common birds only.

Great "rush" of migrants.

My walk to the Barrett place immediately after breakfast was filled with interest, humor, and at times with positive excitement. I took the path through the blueberry hump to Davis's Hill, then through Prescott's pine woods, past the Barrett spring & through the apple orchard to the house which I reached at about 9 a.m. Half an hour later I started back by a different route - through the Barrett run, the oak woods on the road, the road itself to Benson's, and down through the fields to the river landing and thence along the river path to the cabin.

Walk through woods to Barrett place.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 13  
(no 2)

During this walk I saw or heard these Smith's Finches, Birds seen during a walk from Davis's Hill, one in Prescott's pines, one in the Barrett woods, one singing) six Red-bellied Robins, three Parula Robins, one Yellow-rumped Warbler, one Wilson's Black-cap, an Ohio-backed Thrush, Barrett from a Wood Thrush (singing loudly in Barrett's wood), a Great Aurora & back. Myiophobus (in the Barrett orchard), an immature Bald Eagle (shot from a pine on Davis's Hill) from a fine White-throated Sparrow and great numbers of Christmas Island Robins, Down Robins, Black & White Crowns and other common birds. A Thrasher was singing opposite the cabin & another in the Barrett wood. I heard six Cat Birds, from a fine Orion, two Robins, two Field Sparrows, & then Least Myiophobus (two males in the Barrett orchard, one at Barrett's). A Junco was singing at the head of the Barrett wood, a pair were perching in a thicket lower down the wood, and I saw a single female near Davis's Hill. Down birds were very numerous. I heard three Yellow-throated Robins, two Red-eyes, two Juncos, one Grooveback, then Song Sparrows, & several Mayland Yellow-throats. I have not met with one Solitary Blue since May 8<sup>th</sup> and fear that none will breed on my land this season. The only Grooveback Finch I know of in the whole Davis's Hill region is one that has sung up to within a few days in Lawrence's field within hearing of the Barrett house. Yesterday I saw my first Savanna Sparrows - then birds together in Parker's orchard, West Bedford. The woods were silent this afternoon. I paddled up river to Darwin's Hill having three Greater Yellow-legs, four Solitary Sandpipers & the usual number of Red Wings.

Society of  
Solitary Robins  
& Grooveback Finches

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 13  
(no 3)

One of the Lincoln's Finches spent the entire day near the cabin. At about 8 a.m. it sang six or eight times in a dense thicket. I recognized the song at once although I had not then seen the bird. It began with five or six disconnected, stuttering notes and ended in a low, rich, rippling trill almost exactly like a House Wren's. Although not loud the song at once attracted my attention amid the general din of bird voices that came from every side. I went into the thicket to try to drive the bird out but I got only a glimpse of it. Later, when I returned from my walk, I found it directly in front of the cabin. It acted very like a Wren digging in behind the stem of a bush when I moved & coming out or peeping around the trunk of one when I stood still. I watched it for ten minutes or more at a distance of only about 12 feet. When I squeaked it became excited and raised its crest & fluffed its tail. It sang it several times afterwards in the same place.

I found the second bird by the roadside in the hollow just above Benson's. It was exceedingly shy, flying on ahead of me, crossing the road twice, once alighting on a stone wall where I got a good view of it, finally disappearing in a thicket.

The third bird was feeding with or very near a White-throated Sparrow on the ground among some bushes on the bank above the house were the wood shed (Black-burner woods). Something within the thicket startled both birds almost as soon as I discovered them. The Lincoln's Sparrow flew directly towards me & alighted in a bush seven or ten yards off, where it sat very still for awhile & then began peeping its feathers. When I moved at length it dashed off as if greatly alarmed & plunged into the dense foliage of an isolated pine in Benson's pasture. I left it there

Song &  
behavior of  
Lincoln's  
Finch.



Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 13  
(no. 4)

I heard Golden-winged Warblers singing in four places on the Bassett farm, once by the spring, another in the front-garden spring, a third near the head of the run, a fourth in the hollow near Benson's. When I saw the bird at first flitting about among some bushes, at length on the ground hopping about among the dry leaves. It was very probably the same individual that I had heard earlier in the morning at the spring for the two localities are not far apart but I am very sure that I am safe in counting them different birds in all.

Golden-winged  
Warbler.

The Black & Yellow Warbler was in the black oak in the middle of the large spring behind Ball's Hill flitting about in the full sunlight among the unfolding leaves, jutting and flitting up its tail & half opening its wings. It seemed fairly delicious with its intense orange plumage. I have rarely seen so handsome a male. The black stripes on the sides were very broad & clear.

Black & Yellow  
Warbler.

Hearing a Cat bird singing this morning in a thicket very near me I was surprised that I could not see it for the foliage was nearly a thin veil through which the eye penetrated easily in every direction. At length I discovered the bird crouched in a last year's nest where it kept moving around very slowly singing steadily and loudly all the while. I did not see its mouth.

Cat bird  
singing in  
old nest.

Found a Flicker at work excavating a hole in an apple tree in Benson's orchard. I was passing the tree within six feet when I heard a low tapping accompanied by a continuous muffled whining sound. Turning I at once saw the

Flicker  
behaviour  
of Flicker

Boncord, Mass.

1899

May 13  
(Mon. 5)

bird's tail projecting from the hole which was not over 5 feet above the ground. For a minute or more the pulling and whining continued ~~uninterruptedly~~, the tail wriggling violently the while. Evidently the bird had crept in the hole to just that point where she had less room to work than she had had before or would have afterwards. In other words she had just about reached the point where the entrance hole must begin to be expanded into a chamber & to turn downward. It seemed to me that the whining sound expressed rage or impatience. Perhaps it is the Flicker's form of swearing! Unfortunately the bird heard me as was trying to steal off a little way to get behind the next apple tree & flew off in alarm. I waited for sometime but she would not return. I had to move away for had I stayed she would certainly have come out of the hole with a mouthful of chips in the course of a minute or two & discovered me. The 3 Flicker was shouting about 200 yds. off.

As I was crossing the opening beyond the house I saw a hen Partridge perched on a little mound under a pine in a crouching position. The ground over a space of several yards around the mound was as smooth & open as a well kept floor. I was less than twenty feet away & the bird would have seen me as I approached. She did not move until I stopped & put the glass on her when she began walking slowly off making the squirrel-like chickening sound. & when she got behind a tree she flew. I saw a cock Partridge a few days ago do nearly the same thing but he was standing rather erect & as stiff as a statue in an opening. In both instances the bird was only a few yards from these bushes.

<sup>V.</sup>  
Partridge

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 14.

Clear with cool W. to N. W. wind. Therm: 51° - 6 a.m.,  
69° - 1 P.M., 54° - 8 P.M.

Yesterday's birds were all gone this morning and a small flight of woodpeckers had taken their place. Early in the morning a Wood Thrush sang for half-an-hour or more very near the cabin. It was not the bird heard on the 12<sup>th</sup> but a deep, rich-voiced singer.

After breakfast I examined the birds on the south side of the hill with some care & found in addition to the locally established Redstarts, Cuckers, Chestnut-sided etc. a Wilson's Black-capt and a Black-poll Warbler only, the last-named being the first that I have seen this Spring.

Later in the morning I crossed the Swamp & then went to Holden's Hill. During this walk I saw only one northern bird, a Black & Yellow Warbler. As far as I could judge the local-birding species were represented by only about their normal summer numbers. It was a great change from yesterday. In fact I should say that the total number of small birds in the region about Ball's Hill was not one tenth to-day what it was yesterday.

The Red-shouldered Warbler nest in the big pine at Holden's Hill looked dismantled & is evidently not at present occupied. Yet I heard one of the birds screaming high in air towards Benson's. I wonder where they are nesting this Spring. Hylos & Longspur F. legs still noisy at times.

A second  
Wood Thrush  
visits the  
cabin.

Few north-  
bound migrants  
about.

Black-poll  
Warbler arrives

Red-shouldered  
Warbler's nest  
at Holden's  
Hill not  
occupied this  
year.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 15

Brilliantly clear with light W. wind. Ther. 46° - 6 a.m.,  
52° - 8 p.m.

Spent the forenoon in the woods on & behind Bull's Hill. Saw  
no arrivals & not many birds. A Lincoln's Finch spent the finches  
day in front of the cabin and I saw another in a thicket  
at the north-east end of the Hill. A Water Thrush,  
Wilson's Black-cap and Black & Yellow Warbler were  
singing near the cabin early in the morning.

To the Barrett farm by way of Davis's Hill in P.M. Savannah Thrush  
An olive backed Thrush in full song near the spring. in full song.  
The Partridge & Phoebe both sitting. A Great-crested Flycatcher  
calling in the orchard.

Saw a Redstart beginning her nest this morning at about Redstart builds  
7.30 when only a few shreds of material were in place. a nest in one  
at 3 P.M. the nest bolled finished from below although the day.  
bird no doubt will work on the lining for a day or two more.  
This nest is in the upright fork of a white maple at E. end of Bull's Hill.

Paddled up to the Keyes' this morning starting a little  
after sunset & getting back at 9 P.M. Saw 3 night Herons, Waders.  
5 Least Sandpipers (at the Holt) & a number of Solitary &  
Spotted Sandpipers. Heard three different Carolina Wrens  
and several Virginias. A Fox was barking in Long's  
meadows (just below the swimming place) as I paddled  
on my way down. Fox barking.

1899

May 16

Cloudy and cool with light rain in P.M. Wind W. Ther.  $52^{\circ}$ - $60^{\circ}$  A.M.,  $60^{\circ}$ - $1^{\circ}$  P.M.,  $51^{\circ}$ - $8^{\circ}$  P.M.

To Cambridge by 8.13 a.m. train. Spent the day in the garden weeding the wild flower beds & cutting out some trees from the jungle. Two Swainson's Thrushes are singing freely.

" 17 Mildly clear with strong E. wind. Ther.  $51^{\circ}$ - $69^{\circ}$ - $52^{\circ}$ .

Spent most of the day at work in the garden at Cambridge. Scarcity of birds are pitifully scarce this spring. The only ones which appear to be settled are a single pair of Robins, a pair of Flickers (working in an artificial tunnel there & put up in April) a pair of Redstarts & a Yellow Warbler & two. There are no Chiffins, no Purple Finches & no vireos. I forget Orioles of which we have at least one pair. A Swainson's Thrush was singing all the forenoon.

Took the 5.01 train back to Concord W. Dunn accompanying me. On reaching W. Bedford we walked down to the ditch starting a Partridge in the Asplen Swamp. At the cabin we found a Lincoln's Finch which Gilbert told us had spent yesterday & to-day in the thicket in front of his door wintering one whom all was still to eat the winter had he had here in the bed of ferns. There were two White-throated Sparrows there yesterday & five to-day.

Walked around Ball's Hill & to Pine Hill at evening. Birds very numerous along the river path, Tanagers, Grosbeaks, vireos, Warblers, the two Flickers pumping on Great Meadows. There has been a fair cawing cattle.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 18

Cloudy with raw E. wind. A light shower at evening.  
Ther. 44°-6 a.m., 54°-1 P.M., 48°-8 P.M.

Five bird concert at cabin early this morning, Robin, Thrasher, Cow-birds, Yellow, Christ-mas-bird, Black & White, Pine, Black-throated Green & Canadian Warblers, Wilson's Black-cop, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Finch, Grosbeak, Junco, Red-eyed & Yellow-throated Vireo, Redstarts, a Winter Wren, Roblin's, Red-wings etc.

Birds singing  
near cabin  
in early  
morning.

A Barred form in fawn with W. Scam. A Black-brown Warbler singing in Prescott's pines, another in Barret's pines, a Golden-winged Warbler was singing, another at head of run, two Green-crowned Flycatchers in Barret's orchard, a Purple Finch (a rare bird this year) near Barret's house, two Yellow-billed Cuckoos, a Black-billed do. & many common birds. No evidence of the arrival of any migrants since the 15<sup>th</sup> but all those common on that date have evidently remained. After two out of bloom. Partridge & Phoebe falling.

Birds noted  
at Barret's  
farm.

No migration  
since May 15.  
After two  
out of bloom.

In P.M. went up river to the H&E. Four Solitary Sandpiper, one or eight Spotted, one Great, one Greater, and one Lesser Yellow-Cys.

Waders.

The Lesser Yellow-Cys was feeding on a mud flat at the mouth of Bigelow Brook at the base of Daking's Hill. He did not see it until it took wing. It came out past us within fifty yards uttering the characteristic double & triple whistles as it flew. He had a good view of it & there can hardly be no doubt whatever as to our identification.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Swallows & Swifts in unusual numbers over river meadows all day.

1899.

May 19

Concord, Mass.

Cloudy and misty with fine rain for brief periods. East wind in a. m. afternoon dead calm. Therm. 49°-6 a.m., 56°-1 P.M., 50°-8 P.M.

A great "bird day". A small migratory flight must have arrived last night for there was a marked increase in the numbers of Black-jacks & Water Thrushes and I heard the first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher but the unusual abundance of small birds on & about Ball's Hill was chiefly due, no doubt, to the lowering, easterly weather which always, at this season, causes them to congregate here. More than 100 Chipping Swifts were circling all day about the oaks on the crest of the Hill and the meadows were alive with low-flying Swallows of all five species. The trees along the south slope of the Hill and the thickets bordering the lake were simply swarming with birds - Redstarts, Maryland Yellow-throats, Black-jacks, Water Thrushes, 2 Canadian Warblers, a Wilson's Warbler, 2 Lincoln Finches, 2 Winter-throated Sparrows, Cat-birds, etc. etc. I spent the forenoon watching these birds. In the afternoon I paddled down to Birch Island. As I passed Davis's Hill I heard a Black-burnian, a Wilson's Warbler & then several Flycatchers and some small Water Thrushes. Almost nothing at Birch Island or in the neighboring Mason woods.

Walking around the east end of Ball's Hill in evening I heard a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in the blueberry hump, a Wilson's Warbler descending (near) our Holden's Meadows, and two Solitary Sandpipers calling high overhead. A Whippoorwill was flying in the distance, apparently over Davis's Hill, & two Night Hawks passed rather low down, hovering for insects. The air was deliciously soft & very still. The absence of mosquitoes is remarkable. There are almost no mosquitoes although there usually are many here in May. The small Black flies have also disappeared.

Birds swarming  
at Ball's Hill.

Yellow-bellied  
Flycatcher.

Evening walk  
around  
Ball's Hill.

Snipe chased.  
Night hawks

Scarcity of  
mosquitoes.

Concord, Mass.

1898  
May 19  
(No 2)

Wilson's Thrushes began singing to-day. I heard the first at 9 a.m. on the side of Ball's Hill. Gilbert heard another near the cabin about the middle of the afternoon. At evening there was general and protracted singing all around the bird and in the blackberry swamp behind it, at least five or six birds taking part. All of them seemed to be in excellent form.

Why is it that this species remains silent so long after its arrival? I saw the first this season on May 2, and by the 10<sup>th</sup> they were abundant. Living, as I do here, in the very midst of their favorite haunts I should have known it had been some singing before to-day. They have called a little at morning and evening & uttered the bleating notes but not over have I heard the song before this morning. Sometimes there is a longer period of silence than usual, however.

A Partridge drummed all day long on the flower wall at the N.E. end of Ball's Hill. Gilbert heard one on the 17<sup>th</sup> in the Blackstone woods but I have not heard any drumming before since April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Two ragged, soiled, bedraggled-looking Chickadees visited the house on the cabin to-day & behaved themselves finely. The only sound they made was the low, querulous shē-de, their May shē-de, or shē-dee-de peculiar to this season. Is there a low note? call note. Chickadees are very scarce this Spring.

Wilson's Thrushes  
begin singing  
17 days after  
the first arrival  
and 9 days  
after they had  
arrived in force.

Chickadees  
still eating berries.



Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 20

Cloudy with ~~a~~ succession of short but brisk showers in the afternoon & evening. Wind N. E. to North, at times strong. Ther. 49°-6 a.m., 54° 1 P.M., 50°-8 P.M.

Gray-checked Thrush a very large bird in nearly full song at 8 a.m. near the cabin. Song indistinguishable from that of Blackwell's Thrush, so far as I could perceive.

Arrival

Gray-checked Thrush in full song

Birds literally swarming under the lee of Ball's Hill all day, hundreds of Swallows & Swifts coming back & forth close to the water or just over the tops of the trees, Thrushes, Mockers, vireos, Flycatchers and Sparrows flitting among the thickets of the river or in the tops of the blossoming oaks on the hill-side. Most if not all of these birds were evidently the same individuals seen yesterday & some of them have been here since the first of the week, weather-bound. The Gray-checked Thrush very have been an arrival but I suspect that I caught a glimpse of it yesterday. The Canadian Warblers, Wilson's Mockers, Water Thrushes, White-throated Sparrows & Mockers were in the same numbers & same places as yesterday. The Builder's Finch at the cabin came to feed on the millet seed many times during the day & when not feeding was usually busy. I watched him a long time both yesterday & to-day and jotted down a number of notes which I shall write out in full after he has left us. I could not find the other bird which I saw yesterday near the house.

Bird swarm  
at Ball's Hill.

Wilson's Finch

There was one new comer, however, viz. a Great-crested Flycatcher, the first I have ever seen at Ball's Hill. It was flitting about in the tops of some young oaks near the river path about 100 yards west of the cabin & was silent and unusually tame & sluggish.

Great Crested  
Flycatcher at  
Ball's Hill.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 20  
(no 2)

visited Davis's Hill twice during the day & found a great many birds there; <sup>cat birds.</sup> Nuth. Thrushes, American Thrushes, Wilson's Mock-cops, <sup>cat birds.</sup> P. b. b. birds, Wilson's Thrushes & a ♀ Titmouse in the thickets by the river; in the large trees on the crest of the ridge two Yellow-throated Vireos (one singing), two Great Flycatchers, a Black-burnian Warbler, a Pine Warbler, a Mock. Towhee Green, a Hummingbird & a Cedar bird.

Birds at  
Davis's Hill

In Prescott's pine I heard another Black-burnian but almost nothing else save the omnipresent Corn. Birds, Christm. - like warblers, Redstarts etc.

Saw two pairs of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this morning, one near the cabin, the other on the river bank of the Blackstone woods. Both females were collecting building material and saw building. The Blackstone Hill bird got to the nest which was in the top of a Tall Hemlock on the hillside about 40 yards from the river. The male followed their mate closely but rendered no assistance whatever. Neither sang but both kept up a low, tender call (wōi-e, wōi-e or wōi-e-e) which was also occasionally given by the females. The ♀ at the cabin was collecting dry grass at the river bank. The mate finally left her side at work & flying off to the east end of the Hill began singing almost out of hearing. Earlier in the morning (the nest building was at 8 A.M.) I saw the pair at the cabin probing the blossoms of a Black oak with their big bills flitting from branch to branch & keeping up the wōi-e call.

Rose-breasted

Love call.

As I was paddling back to the cabin this evening I heard a big Quaker in the marsh opposite Davis's Hill. It had a tremendous voice. It called only over the quacking call, not the quacking. I do not remember hearing it here before.

Rallies  
elegantly

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 21

Cloudy with strong N. to N. E. wind and frequent brisk showers,  
more rain falling than within the same period for several weeks.  
Ther. 49°-6 a.m., 50°-1 P.m., 48°-8 P.m.

Swallows and Swifts were less numerous about Ball's Hill  
than they have been during the last two days but all the  
other small birds were present in undiminished numbers. Indeed  
it was quite evident that nearly all the birds which were here  
yesterday remained over night and that no fresh arrivals came  
from the South. The Quaker Finch, Gray-cheked Thrush, Canadian,  
Wilson's Black-cap and Black-poll Warblers, Peabody Warbler, with a  
number of summer resident species were all in the same  
numbers as yesterday. The only changes were the absence of  
the Great-crowned Flycatcher seen yesterday & the presence of  
a ♂ Hummingbird that was hovering about among the blossoms of  
a high flowering bush.

Most of the birds kept low down to-day even the Juncos &  
Grackles spending much of their time in the bushes along the  
paths. I saw three Juncos together in a small oak.  
The Wilson's Thrushes, Maryland Yellow-throats, Redstarts, Cuckers,  
Chestnut-sided Warblers filled close about the cabin visiting the  
ground & hopping through my bed of wild flowers. The Gray-cheked  
Thrush alighted on our door step & then hopped off along the  
foot path that leads to the wood room. The Quaker Finch  
was in his usual place. He sang frequently & vigorously  
in the forenoon. Most of the other birds sang in the early  
morning.

In the afternoon I walked to Pine Hill where I found  
my first birds. The Blueberry swamp was also deserted.  
Evidently most of the birds were at Ball's Hill. As evening I  
heard several Yellow-birds whistling over Pine Meadow

Mathew Bound

migrants at

Ball's Hill.

Gray-cheked  
Thrush.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 21

(1892)

Overbirds were rising and flying over the woods in all directions as I crossed Benson's field shortly after sunset. One continued his song during the whole of his descent although he flut down along a steep incline & at the very close hand. How can a bird flute loud vocal sounds under such conditions? One would suppose that if he merely opened his mouth his breath would be driven down his throat.

Flight song of  
the Overbird.

As twilight was deepening into night two night-hawks appeared following the edge of the woods and hovering & circling close about the tops of the oaks like great moths. Apparently they found insects plentiful for they beat back & forth over the same ground several times. Earlier in the evening I heard a night hawk purring & saw him high in air but he did not buzz.

Night hawks  
feeding about  
the tops of  
oaks.

Pat saw two Black Ducks at Thout's Pond yesterday and Gilbert then this afternoon flying over the meadows. Night herons do not seem to come into these meadows very frequently because the water has fallen so low. He has two Bitterns pumping very early, one in the meadow opposite Davis's Hill, the other in the old place on the south side of Great meadow. I think there is a third bird near the head of Great meadow.

Black Ducks

Night Herons

Bitterns

The Bald's Hill Partridge was again drumming all day long on his stone wall & I heard the Davis's woodcock bird drumming steadily late in the afternoon. What has started them up again? Is it the cool breezy weather or have their nests been destroyed?

Partridges still  
drumming.

1899.

May 22

Concord, Mass.

Clear and cool with E. wind. Therm. 46°-60°-48°.

A muddled dreamer in the number of weather-bound migrants at Ball's Hill but all the species seen there during the past four days still represented. The Louisiana T. was in full song from 7 to 9 a.m. but not heard after this and not here at all to-day (he was gone next morning).

Arrival - 1 Wood Pewee singing at Davis' Hill.

Paddled to Concord & back in the forenoon. The high water which has prevailed for the past year has killed more of the grass along the river and now that the water has fallen to a stage unusually low for this season there are extensive flats of soft, heavy mud. There have attended great numbers of waders. I saw to-day a Greater Yellowlegs (with a Golden Eg.), 4 Solitary, 8 or 10 Spotted and about 8 Least Sandpipers. At evening a flock of 9 Least Sandpipers came whirling over Ball's Hill. I also saw this evening two Green Herons & a pair of Kingfishers. Bobolinks appeared to be in their usual numbers. I heard at least a dozen different notes between Ball's Hill & Concord. The Towhees were singing in Concord village, one in the one the common the other in the hillside burying ground.

In the Bunker farm in the afternoon. Visited the Partridge's nest & found the bird about to set the egg gone. No shells in or near the nest & no feathers or trace of any struggle. It looks as if some person had robbed the nest. The male Partridge was drumming on the stone wall held by & I heard the Ball's Hill & Davis Swamp birds drumming also. As all these have been silent for a long time I cannot understand their sudden resumption of the drumming unless all have lost their eggs. Found an Oven Bird's nest with 1 egg on Davis' Hill.

Weather-bound  
migrants  
thinning out.

Wood Pewee  
arrives.

High water  
of last year  
kills grass  
along river &  
forms mud-  
flats which  
attract many

waders.  
Bobolinks

Towhees in  
Concord village

Partridge's  
nest

Partridge  
drumming  
freely again

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 23

Clear with easterly winds. Slightly warm.  $\text{Th. } 49^{\circ}\text{--}62^{\circ}\text{--}56^{\circ}$ .

Most of the northern birds gone this morning & we saw none to take their places. 1 Wilson's Black-cock, 2 Black-jacks, 3 or 4 Water Thrushes & 2 White-throated Sparrows seen or heard.

The immature Bald Eagle again seen at Davis's Hill. Two hawks in full cry this evening for the first time this season. A Fox bawling in the meadows opposite the cabin at 8 P.M.

Most of the  
weather-bound

migrants gone

Bald Eagle.

First Fox bawling

in the meadows

" 24

Clear with light E. to S. E. wind.  $\text{Th. } 54^{\circ}\text{--}64^{\circ}\text{--}59^{\circ}$ .

The country was nearly drained of north-bound migrants to-day. A Wilson's Black-cock, a Canadian Warbler and several Water Thrushes were the only ones seen on Ball's Hill. Another Canadian Warbler was singing in Davis's Swamp when no doubt it will remain to breed. A Hummingbird which I saw on Davis's Hill was also probably killed there for the summer.

North-bound

migrants

nearly all

gone.

" 25

Clear with strong S. W. wind.  $\text{Th. } 53^{\circ}\text{--}75^{\circ}\text{--}62^{\circ}$ .

Water Thrushes continue abundant. I also noted a Canadian Warbler at Ball's Hill, a Swainson's Thrush (singing) at Davis's Hill, and a Greater Yellow-leg and Semipalmated Sandpiper (the characteristic chatter heard) on the river meadows. Virginia Rails continue as abundant & noisy as ever but the Carolina Rails have either departed or become wholly silent.

Common Toads began giving the summer squeak this evening for the first time.

Water Thrushes.

Swainson's

Thrush singing.

Waders.

Rails.

Toads began

squeak

this evening.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 26

Clear with fresh S. W. wind in the afternoon. Ther. 56°-78°-68°

Water Thrushes present in undiminished numbers. One Canadian Warbler at Ball's Hill, another at Davis's Hill. All the other smaller birds noted belonged to species which breed here commonly and most of them were down to about their normal summer numbers. All the northern-birding warblers appear to have departed.

Water Thrushes  
still numerous

W. Deane arrived by the 5:30 P. M. train to pass the night. After supper we paddled up river to the head of Beane Dam. Refreshed seeing three night-hawks and a flock of six night hawks flying about over the marshes. Two bitterns were pumping and about six Virginia Rails giving the culla cry. We also heard a Goshawk whining over so there is at least one of these birds wintering here.

Goshawk on  
river.

Rails.

" 27

Clear with violent W. wind. Ther. 58°-77°-66°.

North-bound migrants apparently are gone. Found a nest of Wilson's Thrush containing four eggs. It was among dry leaves in the side of a bank on the edge of the path to Davis's Hill. The Olive-backed was found on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and held five eggs to-day (they were destroyed before hatching by some predatory bird or animal). I paddled up to Concord and sailed back in the evening. Fireflies were out by hundreds, an early date for them to appear numerously if I am not mistaken.

North-bound  
migrants  
off all gone

Fireflies.

Miss Maria Hayes & Miss Barrett saw a Painted Tortoise which had just finished laying scoop a quantity of dirt into the hole & then one laid set out three laid plants directly over the eggs, working exclusively plants over with her hind feet not over looking back. This happened about 5 P. M. her nest in the opening between Ball's Hill & Davis's Hill. I visited the site later. The three birds were, green & blossomed drooping over the nest.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

May 29

Spent last night at the Kleges'. Just before dawn saw a Hummer among the blossoms of their Japan quince and heard a Meadow Lark and Yellow-winged Sparrow singing, the latter bird in the back pasture on the north slope of the hill.

At day break this morning great numbers of birds were singing close about the house. I noted Robins, a Cat bird, noted at Yellow Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throats, Red-eyes & Green. Herons, Ring-necked Pheasants, a Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Song Sparrows, Chipping, Grosbeak, <sup>Bobolinks</sup> ~~Song~~ Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles, a Phoebe, Kingbird, 2 or 3 Barn Swallows, Chimney Swifts, a Yellow-bellied Cuckoo, Purple Martins, and Barn, Barn & Barn Swallows. These with the Hummer, Meadow Lark and Yellow-winged Sparrows noted last evening make a list of 27 species which are evidently breeding on or very near this place.

On my way back to Ball's Hill in the early forenoon I heard two Black-poll Warblers singing in the pine banks.

Black-polls

" 30

Clear with strong W. wind. Ther. 56°-77°-69°.

A Black-poll Warbler was singing near the cabin this morning. At evening I saw two Night-hawks and a ♀ Cooper's Hawk at Davis's Hill.

Many Turtles (among them a Wood Tortoise) were laying their eggs in sandy pastures & openings near Ball's Hill this forenoon.

Turtles  
laying



Concord, Mass.

1899

May

21

I have seen at least six different Lincoln's Finches here <sup>notes on</sup>  
this month, three on the 13<sup>th</sup>, two on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> <sup>Lincoln's Finch</sup>  
and one daily in the same place, chiefly in front of the  
cabin from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> undrawn. One, an  
exceedingly shy bird, was by the roadside in the bushy hollow  
just above Benson's where it skulked along the back side  
of a stone wall & finally disappeared in a thicket.  
Another was on the ground among bushes on the edge of  
the Blackman woods in company with a White-throated  
Sparrow. Something within the wood edge alarmed the  
two. The Lincoln's Finch flew directly towards me &  
alighted in a small bush where it sat for some time peering  
it furtively within ten yards of me. When I finally moved  
towards it it flew into the top of a dwarf pine that  
stands alone in the pasture where the road through Benson's  
field. Both these birds were seen but a third which  
I found earlier the same morning in the thorny thicket  
east of the cabin and which spent the entire day there  
singing six or eight times at about 8 a.m. giving the  
horn-like form of song each time. It is possible that this  
bird was the same which established itself directly in  
front of the cabin on the 15<sup>th</sup> & remained there until  
the forenoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> but if so I failed to detect its  
presence on the 14<sup>th</sup> although I looked for it carefully.  
On the 15<sup>th</sup> I found what was certainly a different bird  
in the belt of bushes along the water front at the western  
end of Ball's Hill. It was silent & comparatively tame but  
an alert skulker keeping constantly behind the stems of  
the bushes & running nimbly from one cover to the next as  
I advanced. On the 19<sup>th</sup> I got a big but satisfactory glimpse  
of still another bird in a thicket of low bushes behind Ball's Hill.

1899.

May  
(51)

From five of these birds I learned practically nothing that was new to my experience but the eighth gave me some opportunity for studying its interesting notes and habits. It appeared, as I have already said, on the 18<sup>th</sup> and remained until the forenoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup> spending its whole time within or on the outskirts of the thicket of bushes between the hunter cabin and the canoe landing. In a bed of ferns on the edge of this thicket, directly in front of the small cabin and some fifteen feet from the door, we kept a quantity of millet seed scattered about over the ground. This was visited by the Finch at frequent intervals and, no doubt, constituted his chief food supply during his stay. It may have had something to do with the length of his stay, also, but the weather was very cool during this period & a number of other birds stayed in the same thicket for nearly the same length of time.

The Lincoln's Finch was very shy at first and at all times exceedingly alert and suspicious but he showed a nice and, on the whole, wise discrimination in his judgment of different sights and sounds. At times, intelligent little travelers, evidently, quite alive to the fact that dangers threatened at all times but too cool-headed and experienced to be subject to the needless & foolish panics which seize upon so many of the smaller birds. He soon learned to disregard the movements and voices which we made within the cabin and the trains thundering by on the other side of the river did not disturb him in the least but if our door was suddenly thrown open or if a footstep was heard approaching along the river path he at once retreated into the thicket behind the ferns dodging from bush to bush & keeping behind anything that would serve as a screen until all was quiet again when he

Notes on  
Lincoln's Finch.

1899

May  
(2)

would frequently happen at the edge of the cover and after a short reconnaissance begin feeding again: But however busy engaged at the seed no sight or sound escaped him. If a chipmunk rattled the dry leaves on the neighboring hillside he would stand erect and clean up his neck turning his head slowly from side to side to watch or listen. When a Swift, of which there were many flying about, passed close overhead with a sound of rushing wings the Sparrow would crouch close to the ground and remain motionless for a minute or more. But when nothing seemed to excite his suspicions he would feed busily and unconsciously for minutes at a time. Some of the seed had sifted down among the dry leaves and for this he hatched precisely in the manner of a Fox Sparrow making first a forward hop of about two inches and then a vigorous backward jump & kick which scattered behind him all the leaves that his feet had clutched. In this manner he would quickly clear a considerable space and then devote himself to the unselected seeds which he would pick up one by one & roll in his bill after the manner of white Sparrows.

He was invariably silent when at the seed bed but within the recesses of his favorite thicket he sang freely at all hours especially in the morning or early forenoon or when the birds had just emerged from a cloud.

He never sang from the top of a bush like a Song Sparrow but usually from some perch only a yard or so above the ground in the depths of the cover and not infrequently on the ground itself as he scrambled from place to place hopping slowly over the dry leaves. His voice was rich and sweet at times but it had little carrying power & was not distinctly audible at a greater distance

Notes on  
Lincoln's Finch.

1899.

May  
19

than forty or fifty yards..

Of its <sup>form</sup> ~~quality~~ it is impossible to be briefly or in general terms, for the birds had several songs which were not only different but very dissimilar. Most birds who possess a rich and varied repertoire give their different songs or notes in rapid succession or frequent alternation but with this Brindbill Finch the change was invariably made only after a period of silence and the theme selected on each occasion was repeated with little or no variation during of times was so common while sometimes it heard the bird for a whole morning. Some of the songs were fixed and uniform at all times; others varied, as I have just described, but only within definite limits. All resembled, and two or three appeared to exactly reproduce, the songs of other species of birds. Indeed not one could be safely regarded as original either in form or tone. That other North American bird sings in this way, borrowing his songs from half a dozen other birds, not intermingling or combining them with notes of his own, but selecting one for one hour or occasion, another, for another?

The different songs with their variations which this Brindbill's Sparrow used may be described as follows.

1. A simple, level, wailing trill usually indistinguishable from the hummer song of the Junco but at times with a resonant, lyrical quality approaching that of the second rump song. Both forms given at short but distinct intervals.
2. The same trills with the intervals completely filled with short, soft, liquid notes the whole forming a melody exactly like that uttered by the juncos in

Notes on  
Brindbill's Finch.

1899.

May

early spring with the junc trump or trump coming in frequently among the above, connecting notes. This song should perhaps be regarded as a trump but it is

Notes on  
Lincoln's Finch.

change from one to the other.  
These notes were literal copies of those of the junc  
can admit of no doubt.

3. A rather warble, at times flowing smoothly and evenly and in general fair exceedingly like the song of the Purple Finch; at others brighter & more glancing the notes rolling one on another & suggesting those of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet; again with a trump, trump and in form as well as tone very closely like the song of the House Wren; still again guttural and somewhat broken or stammering and very suggestive of the song of the Song-billed Marsh Wren. Although in the first and last of these songs are very unlike I have classified them under one head because the bird often gave them all during one singing period and, moreover, changed from one to another by insensible gradations.

4. Song in slow, measured bars or cadences, separated by brief intervals, swelling and backing, some of the notes trilled or "shaken" the whole given after the manner of the song of the Hermit Thrush & Brewster's Finch and almost equally spiritual in quality.

With such a repertoire - even though it be borrowed or stolen - Lincoln's Finch might readily take rank as the first among North American singing birds were it not that his voice has apparently so little power. That one must be very near him to appreciate its ~~for~~ remarkable beauty & flexibility.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

May

The following list includes all the species which Birds noted  
were noted in our garden during the present month of May in our  
garden by  
H. Deane.

1. Merula migratoria. - One to three birds daily.
2. Turdus fuscus. - 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
3. " swainsonii. - 15<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
4. Parus atricapillus. - 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
5. Geothlypis a. usneae. - 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
6. Dendroica aestiva. - 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>; after this one ♂ daily.
7. Sitophaga ruticilla. - 4<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub>; after this an adult ♂ present daily.  
A ♀ or im. ♂ was seen on the 13<sup>th</sup>
8. Seiurus aurocapillus. - 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 28<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
9. " noaboracensis. - 23<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
10. Geothlypis trichas. - 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
11. Vireo flavifrons. - 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
12. " gilvus. - 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 10<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
13. Tachycineta bicolor. - 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> (flying over)
14. Cardinalis purpureus. - 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>
15. Sporilla socialis. - 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 22<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

May

16. Icterus galbula. - 4♂ 8♀, 11♂ 12♀ 13♀ 15♀ 21♀ 26♀ Birds  
noted in our garden by W. Dean.
17. Corvus americanus. - 6♂ 15♂ 16♂ 26♂, (A nest, in which a brood of young was reared, was built in a pine over Dr. Wyman's dining, (Sparks St.)
18. Agaveitta cristata. - 15♂ seen in the garden.
19. Chaetura pelagica. - 4♂ flying over at 2 P.M. // small flock flying over.
20. Trochilus colubris. - 16♂
21. Empidonax minimus. - 15♂ 28♂ (Did not meet in the garden this year).
22. Dryobates pubescens. - 9♂ 11♂ <sup>seen</sup> <sub>seen</sub>.
23. Colaptes auratus. - A pair nested in a box, covered with Flicker's nest  
bark & cottonwood to resemble a stump, which I put up for them last month. The ♂ "chattered" through this month. He was frequently seen sitting in the box looking out of the round hole at the top. The ♀ was especially attempted to build in the box but the Woodpeckers there are their flairs and finally laid 8 eggs at just what date we do not know. but probably sometime this month. None of the eggs hatched & the birds after incubating them through June deserted the nest early in July.
24. Passer domesticus. - Rather less numerous than usual.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(a)

Although heavy rain fell during the afternoon and night of the 7<sup>th</sup>, light rain on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and thunder showers on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> the total precipitation was not sufficient to do more than mitigate the rigors of the drought which has prevailed since last March. The grass crop was very light and the vegetation generally suffered perceptibly but strange to say the streams and ponds have not sunk as much as is usual in dry seasons. White and Nagog Ponds were two or three feet above their normal levels when I visited them on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> respectively and Holden was also found to be exceptionally high but, as is well known, all three are subject to mysterious fluctuations which appear to be quite independent of the conditions which affect the levels of all the other bodies of water in this region.

The first week of June brought very warm weather the thermometer rising above 80° on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, to 93° on the 5<sup>th</sup> and to 94° on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The remainder of the month was, for the most part, rather cool with an unusual number of fine, clear days.

On May 22<sup>nd</sup> I walked farther than was prudent bringing on an attack of hip lameness which lasted through June and severely interfered with my field work, especially with the photography of birds' nests at which I did practically nothing. As I was unable to get about enough in the woods to accomplish anything worth the while and as, after the departure of the migrants, time hung rather heavily on my hands at Balls Hill I closed the cabin on June 5<sup>th</sup> and after a day's visit at Cambridge went to the Hayes' where I remained until the 17<sup>th</sup> returning later for two more days (24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>). During my stay there I drove about the country, a great deal; to White & Nagog Ponds,

Summary of  
Weather con-  
ditions etc.

My personal  
remarks



Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(b)

through the Marlboro and Estabrook woods, to Bedford, and through many primitive lanes, wood roads and by ways in the remote parts of Carlisle and Acton. I also spent several days at the Bonnell farm and once or twice visited the Ball's Hill woods. The only trip which I attempted up river by canoe was frustrated by a heavy shower which forced me to seek shelter under a bridge & to return in the early evening without having accomplished my purpose.

During these drives I gained some interesting knowledge respecting the local distribution and comparative abundance of such of the birds as come or have or breed along country roadsides and wood paths but on the whole the month may be said to have been practically wasted. Of the flora of the region I learned little though there was more to me than Lepidostemon occurs commonly but very locally at a station near Bedford Springs and at two places in Carlisle — near the Hannah Green farm on the old Estabrook road and some two miles beyond on the road to Chelmsford. There are also two plants still lingering at the old station in Carlson's woods and fir at Ball's Hill was the cabin as well as two on the roadside just north of Benson's house.

Plants.

After the end of May I gave up keeping a field journal but a brief record of each day's happenings was posted in the pocket diary which I started at the beginning of 1899 and practically all the birds which I saw, common as well as rare, were noted in the condensed field list for Eastern Massachusetts. From these two sources I have compiled the above summary of general observations as well as the notes which follow.

Gouverneur, Mass.

1899.

June 8

(c)

Awaking just before day break (at 3.20) this morning, before the first Robin had uttered his first call, I heard, as I was lying in bed at the 'Kings', and for the first time in my life, the song of the Purple Martin. It was a monotonous er-e-er-ity-er-e repeated rapidly without pause or interval many times in succession. As nearly as I could make out there were two or three birds singing at once and they kept it up for at least eight or ten minutes. The sound came from the direction of the Horners' meadow and always from the same point leading me to conclude that the birds were perched, probably, in the tops of the large elms that line the road which skirts this meadow. Faxon heard this same song when he was living at Lexington a few years ago. If I remember rightly he told me at the time that it is more uttered excepting at day break.

✓  
Early morning  
song of the  
Purple Martin

The first bird after the Martins to sing this morning was a Wood Pewee, then a Red-wing, then Robins, Song Sparrows, Cowbirds, Least Flycatchers, or day break. Yellow Warblers etc.

Succession of  
other songsters

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(d)

Turdus mustelinus.— Heard them on four different males singing in the Eastbrook woods and one at the Barrett farm on the 9<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, on the latter occasion in the oak grove directly behind the barn.

Turdus fuscus.— About the usual number breeding at Ball's Hill. Found two nests, both in dry situations; one among oak leaves at the base of a bunch of oaks on the side of the hill near its foot & only a few yards from the river path, the other in the side of a sandy embankment near the path to Davis's Hill. The former nest contained 3 eggs on May 28 and 3 young apparently only a few hours old on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Troglodytes aedon.— One singing in the apple orchard on the George Hayes place from 5- was the only bird that I saw there. I did not hear it after this date although I frequently visited the orchard.

Cistothorus palustris.— The birds which breed at Beaver Dam Rapids just above Ball's Hill always arrive late. I heard the first one there this season from 1<sup>st</sup>. As I left the cabin shortly after this date I did not make any further observations on this colony, which seldom contains more than two or three pairs.

Dendroica discolor.— Prairie Warblers have bred in the Holden woods rather numerously since this region was transformed by the great fire three or four years ago. I heard two males singing there this month one, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, the other on the 26<sup>th</sup>, both near the Holden road.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(2)

Dendroica blackburni.— A ♂ heard singing on Davis's Hill June 3<sup>rd</sup> and another on White Pond on the 8<sup>th</sup> both in white pine woods. These Warblers appear to be slowly but steadily increasing and spreading over the region about Concord during the breeding season.

Sylvania canadensis.— A ♂ was singing in the swamp just behind Ball's Hill on the 15<sup>th</sup>. I did not visit Davis's Swamp this month but one or two birds which were singing there the last of May were apparently settled for the summer.

Setophaga ruticilla.— This species has increased greatly in numbers during the past ten years in the region about Concord. At Ball's Hill it now breeds abundantly. We found no less than five nests there this season. Two were begun on the morning of May 17<sup>th</sup> and two on that of the 19<sup>th</sup> while the fifth was apparently completed on the latter date. Two of the five pairs hatched & reared their young successfully, the other three nests were destroyed soon after the eggs were laid. Gilbert took some careful notes respecting one of these nests from which I have compiled the following:

At about 6 A. M. on May 17<sup>th</sup> a ♀ Redstart brought a long, transparent, silky-looking fiber, apparently that of a milkweed stalk, to a gray birch in front of the cabin and placing it at the intersection of a rather short branch with the main stem began moving it about until its position suited her when she pressed it down firmly by rubbing it with the side of her head which she turned slowly from side to side. This was literally the first bit of nest material that was put in the clutch. Many others of an apparently

1899.

June

(6)

(*Scotophaga ruticilla*) similar kind was brought during the forenoon and treated in the same way although the bird had to use her bill rather vigorously in tampering some of the more refractory ones into place. She worked busily & steadily until noon when the foundation of the nest was finished.

At about 2.30 P. M. she began the frame by attaching one end of a strand of fibrous material to the right hand side of the trunk a little above the branch on which the foundation was laid and fastening the other end to the foundation on the same side the strand inclining downwards at an angle of about  $30^{\circ}$  or  $40^{\circ}$ . Next another strand was placed on the left side in the same position as the first the ends of the two overlapping on the trunk. Then a third piece was brought and one end rubbed lightly against the center of the strand on the right, the opposite end being carried a little beyond that of the left hand strand. Next a fourth strand was rubbed on the trunk a little above the upper end of the left hand guy to the middle of which the opposite end was fastened. By rubbing the two together, each piece of fiber was packed into the general shape of the nest as soon as it was attached at both ends and more were brought and carried from point to point until a complete framework of about the size & shape of the half of a hen's egg was created around & resting on the foundations. This framework was so delicate that it looked as if the mere breath of wind would blow it away. During its construction the bird worked entirely from the outside standing on the branch and shaping each piece of fiber with her head

1899.

June

(9)

(Scotophaga ruticilla) on beak.

The next day (May 18<sup>th</sup>) she began using cocoon fibres as well as milkweed bark. The former she obtained from a groove near the top of the cabin door in front of which she would hover on rapidly vibrating wings until the operation compelled her to alight for a moment to rest & regain breath either on the top of the door or its hood knob. As soon as she had filled her beak she would fly to the bricks, alight on the branch and distribute her load around the inside of the nest; then hopping into it and squating down with head & tail raised and back deeply hollowed she would move slowly around to the right and then to the left, making usually a half but sometimes a whole turn and, with her head and breast, pressing the materials which she had brought into the meshes of the framework until they were completely filled. Working thus, always from the inside, she modeled and remodeled until by the constant application of fresh material she had transformed the original skeleton framework into a compact, firmly woven nest. Occasionally she would drop directly into the nest without first alighting outside but she did not attempt to perch on its rim until it was nearly completed.

After putting in the lining, which consisted of horse hair, dry grass, and shreds of bark, grape vine and milkweed bark; she drew in the loose ends which had been left projecting or hanging down around the top and outside of the nest. These ends were drawn & tucked in to bind the lining and were held down by the bird's breast

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June

(4)

(Scotophaga ruticilla) until all within her reach were secured. She then managed to rub them still more firmly into place by craning her head over the rim of the nest and bringing her bill, throat & neck to bear on its top & inner & outer surfaces at one & the same time.

After this nest was finished it was frequently visited by Black & Winter Wren, Yellow Warblers and Red-eyed Vireos all of whom attempted to appropriate some of its component materials for their own domiciles. They sometimes succeeded in getting away with a few strands despite the vigilance of the Redstart who defended her castle with the greatest spirit. In the end she hatched & reared her young successfully but we do not know just when they left the nest.

Seiurus aurocapillus. - A nest containing one egg found May 22 on the crest of Davis's Hill. Four more eggs were laid, one on each successive day. When I visited the nest for the last time on the morning of June 4<sup>th</sup> the bird was still sitting and the eggs undisturbed although they were very dark colored. I learned afterwards that something destroyed the nest & its contents a day or two after the visit just mentioned.

Habia ludoviciana. - On the afternoon of June 2<sup>nd</sup> a ♂ sang for nearly an hour without changing his perch which was in the top of a large chestnut on Holden's Hill.

Poocetes gramineus. - Two Grass Finches which I heard singing on June 8 near White Pond were the only birds that I met with during the month. The species must have suffered considerable losses in the South Coast winter.

1899.

June

(A)

Coturniculus hesperis. - In addition to the bird noted on May 11<sup>th</sup> near the Barnett farm I heard four additional males singing near Concord in June, three on the 10<sup>th</sup> in Carlisle, the fourth on the 25<sup>th</sup> in the meadow below Agassiz Circle in Concord.

Coturniculus passerinus. - A bird heard singing in the Kleges' pasture May 7<sup>th</sup> & again on the 28<sup>th</sup> was the only one met with this season although in June I took many long drives about Concord & through the breeding towns.

Myiarchus cinerascens. - A pair of these Flycatchers bred in the Barnett orchard this season and I saw another pair at the upper end of the Estabrooke road in Carlisle on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Sayornis phoebe. - The Phoebe at the Barnett farm reared two broods in the same nest this season. The nest was placed in a mortar hole in a beam in a dark corner of the barn cellar. I first saw it on April 28 when it was nearly finished. On May 8<sup>th</sup> it held four eggs but the bird was absent. Another egg was probably added the following morning for the nest contained five on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. After this it was examined daily. The young hatched on the 27<sup>th</sup> and left the nest fifteen days later, i. e. on June 11<sup>th</sup>. On June 24<sup>th</sup> I found four eggs, which looked fresh, in the same nest. It did not look as if the birds had done anything to it. The ♀ was flitting about & apparently had not begun sitting again. She reared the second brood safely but I do not know just where they were hatched on wing.



1899.

June

(19)

Circus hudsonius. — Two adult males seen during the month one about two miles S. of Bedford on the 11<sup>th</sup>, the other beating the fields near the Concord Port Farm on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Colinus virginianus. — A pair running in the road near Heath's Bridge on the 8<sup>th</sup>, one calling near the Barrett farm on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a ♂ calling bob-white on the Hayes place on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A pair was also seen in Bedford on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Zenaidura macroura. — This has been the first year since I settled on Ball's Hill when I have failed to hear the solemn voice of the Carolina Dove in one or another part of the neighboring woods. Gilbert saw a pair on April 15<sup>th</sup> & a single bird two days later flying past the cabin but my only personal observation during the entire season was confined to glimpses of a bird near Cuddebo's bridge on May 31. On June 24<sup>th</sup> Mr. Wendell Pickens told me that a pair of Doves had been frequently seen during the past week in the woods on his estate in Bedford about a mile below the bridge last mentioned.

I attribute the disappearance of these attractive birds from the Ball's Hill region where they bred so numerously a few years ago to the presence there during the last two or three seasons of one or more pairs of Cooper's Hawks. I doubt if these Hawks often breed in country there but they certainly frighten them away from the immediate neighborhood of every piece of woods where they settle for the summer.

Anas obtusa. — One seen flying over the meadows opposite the cabin on the 1<sup>st</sup> & the same or another bird heard quacking there during the evening.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June  
(12)

Birds at  
Barrett farm

The Barrett farm has been fun, thrum for, from the presence of the obnoxious House Sparrows and during the present month it was literally humming with birds. During my visits I was nearly sure to hear close to the house Robins, a Wood Thrush, Bluebirds, Cat birds, House Wrens, Chickadees, Black & White Anfers, Nuthatches, Golden-winged, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green & Pine Grosbeaks, Redstarts, Maryland Yellows-throats, Oven birds, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Purple Martins (visitors from the town) House Swallows (none breeding in my buildings, none although there are two old nests in the barn) White-bellies (a pair nested in Mrs. Riech's orchard) Bonk Swallows, Scarlet Tanagers, Purple Finches, Goldfinches, a Grass Finch, Chipping, Field & Song Sparrows, Towhees (very numerous), Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo birds, Bobolinks, Cow birds, Baltimore Orioles (several pairs nesting in the elms), Crows, Blue Jays, Crested Flycatchers, Kingbirds, Phoebe, Wood Pewees, Least Flycatchers (about 3 pairs in the old orchard) Chipping Swifts (several nests in my chimneys), Whifflebirds, an occasional Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpeckers (a nest in the orchard last year but none found this), Flickers (a pair nested in the big elm over the driveway), both Yellow-bellied & Black-bellied Cuckoos, Screech Owls & an occasional Red-shouldered or Red-tailed Hawk, while the drumming of a Partridge in the woods beyond the orchard was often distinctly audible.

At least two & I thought three Golden-winged Woodpeckers frequented the run and one or all of them frequently visited the tall elms immediately about the house & song thrush for half an hour or a hour.

No Solitary Vireos nested anywhere on my grounds this year.

Concord, Mass.

1899.

June  
(2)

Several pairs of Bobolinks spent the season in the fields Barrett farm just across the road from the house but I think their nests were all on Mr. Lawrence's Concord although I am nearly sure that at least one pair nested in my meadows last year.

The Towhees were numerous and familiar coming close about my door and singing for hours in the thickets which fringe the town walls along the road just below the house as well as in the grove behind the barn.

Towhees

As already noted a Henslow's Sparrow was in full, persistent song on the afternoon of May 11<sup>th</sup> almost within hearing of my house, in the brushy brook meadow on the Holden farm opposite Mrs. Ritchie's but I did not hear it there again although I passed the place frequently.

Henslow's  
Sparrow.

On June 10<sup>th</sup> I discovered a cluster of small, reddish brown Bats clinging to under side of the roof of my shed. They were huddled so closely together that it was difficult to count them but I made the number to be 10. It afterwards increased to 14 or 15 when four or five of the animals were very small & apparently young. These Bats regularly roosted in this shed through the summer & early autumn but they disappeared before the weather became cold. They were always to be found at exactly the same spot beneath which their rat-like excrement formed a small mound on the board floor.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

June 6

Clear and very warm with S. wind. Ther 94° at 1 P.M.

Spent most of the day in the garden when I saw or heard Robins, a Yellow Warbler, Redstart, Yellow-Throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, 2 Cedar Wicks, a pair of Scarlet Tanagers, a Chipping, Orioles, a pair of Flickers (nesting in a box that I put over the ~~town~~ <sup>nest</sup> ~~nest~~ <sup>nest</sup>), and a ♀ Hummingbird and a Yellow-bellied Cuckoo.

Garden  
birds

The Tanager appeared early in the afternoon in the top of a white maple in the jungle when it sang a dozen times or more before flying off. It is the first <sup>adult</sup> that has ever visited our place within my recollection although I heard one singing years ago in the distance in the direction of the Kennedy's oaks on Highland Street (I saw a ♀ or juv. ♂ in the garden, Oct. 1, 1898).

Tanager visits  
the garden

Just before noon Mrs. Kitchell who was sitting in the jungle watching the birds saw a Gray Squirrel carry several young from a nest box in one of the apple trees near the south gate towards the bird house taking only one young at each trip and holding it lightly in its mouth. I saw it take what was probably the last of the brood. It passed very near me as it ran over the ground under the trees. The young squirrel appeared to be nearly naked and scarcely larger than a field mouse. I have little doubt that the extreme heat prompted the animal to remove its young from the close, stifling box to one of the well ventilated nests of twigs & leaves which the squirrels have built in the upper branches of the bird house.

Gray Squirrel  
carrying young  
in its mouth

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

June 29 The garden alive with birds mostly Robins, Redstarts Birds in  
and Yellow Warblers with their broods of young. A our garden.  
Grosbeak was in full song thru this evening for half-an-hour  
or more, a late date for her continuous singing.

" 30 The evening when warblers are attracting Robins and Mulberries  
 Orioles to the garden in great numbers. Grosbeaks also attract birds  
 come to feed on the mulberries and I saw an old  
 bird accompanied by a brood of fully fedged young in  
 the tree this evening. Singing is fast declining but  
 I still Red-eyed & Warbling Vireos, Redstarts, Yellow Warblers  
 and an occasional Chipping. Robins continue in full  
 song at all hours but they are less numerous than  
 on other this season than usual.

Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

June 19, 20 I went to Wolfeboro on the 19<sup>th</sup> when, with a party of  
 teachers from the Academy, I strolled all over the Lake.  
 The only birds of any interest seen on this occasion were  
 a pair of Loons.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> I heard Red Crossbills a number of times in  
 the trees near the Academy building. Judging by their calls  
 there must have been a large flock of them.

Bobolinks and Purple Martins appeared to be as numerous  
 as was in the village and its surrounding forests.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

June.

During this month Mr. Deane & I noted the following birds in the garden:

Birds

noted in our  
garden by

H. Deane &

W. Brewster.

1. Merula migratoria. - From 1 to 3 seen daily up to the middle of the month after which the number increased sometimes reaching 7 or 8. The first young were seen on May on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Not more than two pairs & perhaps only one nested on our place this year.
2. Dendroica aestiva. - A single pair present during the month. I did not find the nest but young were seen on the 23<sup>rd</sup> & afterward.
3. Setophaga ruticilla. - Apparently only one pair nesting on our place this season. Both birds frequently visited the pond under the alders to drink or bathe.
4. Vireo olivaceus. - A ♂ singing (& no doubt nesting) in the birch trees as usual.
5. " flavifrons. - Noted only on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>, a single bird in full song on each occasion.
6. " gilvus. - A ♂ heard singing on the 3, 8, 10, 13 & 16.
7. Perisoreus erythronotus. - A fine ♂ singing in the pines on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

June

8. Ampelis cedrorum. - Heard on the 6<sup>th</sup> & two seen the birds  
following day. nest in our
9. Spiraea socialis. - One on the 6<sup>th</sup>, the only bird garden by  
<sup>until the close of</sup> ~~nest~~ <sup>the month.</sup> This has been H. Denny  
the first season since my earliest recollection H. Brewster.  
when the Chipping has not nested in our  
garden.
10. Habia ludoviciana. - A ♂ in full song on the 1<sup>st</sup>  
and 29<sup>th</sup> and a ♀ accompanied by a  
brood of young on the 30<sup>th</sup>. There was  
evidently no nest on our place this season.
11. Icterus galbula. - At least one pair & I think two  
nested on our place this year.
12. Lanius g. excub. - Frequently seen in the garden  
when they come to bathe in a dish  
put out for the pigeons as well as to  
eat cherries which they began attacking as  
early as the 14<sup>th</sup>.
13. Tachycineta cyathina. - 1 ♂ 6 ♀, 10 ♀.
14. Chaetura pelagica. - 3 ♂ 5 ♀ 6 ♂ 10 ♀ 11 ♀ all flying  
over the garden.
15. Coccyzus americanus. - 7 ♂ 10 ♀.
16. " erythrophthalmus. - 8<sup>1st</sup> (couple)

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

- June 17. Colaptes auratus. - A pair nesting in an artificial box (as already noted in the May list). On June 22<sup>nd</sup> we opened the box for the first time & found that the nest contained 8 eggs. These were hatched early in July. The ♂ "lickin" himself" through June.

Birds  
noted in our  
garden by  
W. Deane &  
W. Brewster.

18. Myiicorax n. naevius. - On the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 o'clock a Wigwag Hawk was seen flying over the garden by W. Deane. It came from the direction of the Brighton marshes.



1899

July & Aug.

Exceptionally pleasant and comfortable weather prevailed Weather. during these months there being an unusual number of clear, cool days and but few excessively warm ones. Heavy thunder showers fell on July 8, 9, 12 and 27 and on August 22; lighter rain was accompanied by ~~thunder~~ or lightning on July 16 & 29 and August 10 & 11. This precipitation kept the vegetation fairly green and thriving but it was not sufficient to materially affect the ponds and streams which remained very low during the whole season.

Our family removed to Peterboro, N. H. July 3<sup>rd</sup> and we spent the rest of the summer there—at the "Days" on "Ben Mass farm" where we were last year. Mr. & Mrs. Walter Dean were with us during the first week, Mr. & Mrs. William Stone from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. H. A. Packer visited us twice in August; 2-7 and 17-22.

Personal  
movements  
& occupations

I led a much more active life this summer than last rambling about in the woods either alone or with my men friends in the forenoon, talking long drives with the family in the afternoons. We also frequently drove out Sunday to Ben's pretty, lightly spiced where we had a pic-nic tea, returning in the cool of the evenings. The weather was exceptionally favorable for such excursions and we enjoyed them greatly. In addition to our good gray horse "Dando" we had, most of the time, a small bay horse ("Whit") which I hired in the village and drove in my Concord wagon.

Although I did not by any means neglect the birds a large share of my attention was given, this season, to the plants of the Peterboro region. With the help of Dean & Packer I found & identified many that

Pittsboro, New Hampshire.

1899.

July & Aug  
(no. 2)

Plants

were new to me and I dug very many of the more attractive kinds to transplant in my wild gardens at Cambridge and Concord whither I went on the average about once every week or two days.

Among the more interesting plants found this summer were Moneses grandiflora which carpeted the ground over a space of about an quarter of an acre on a hillside shaded by white pines near the brook below our house; Habenaria pinnatifida abundant, H. orbiculata common, and H. hookeri a few plants all growing in a deep rich flower swamp east of Cunningham Pond, Geranium robertianum and Eupatorium agnitoides growing abundantly on the face or at the base of a low, rocky cliff on the east side of Paoli Monksnose within a few yards of the carriage road which ascends that mountain, Goodbyea pubescens one small patch, S. tessellata widely distributed but nowhere common, S. repens only in the Orchid swamp where on some uplands of our hundred plants. Of Astragalus ura-urii I found several large patches by the roadside in the valley near the river.

To the list of ferns we added Phlegmaria dryopteris of which Mrs. Packer discovered a small colony growing on the side of a rock patch near our brook, Aspidium humile which was abundant throughout the Orchid swamp, Asplenium trichomanes of which fifteen or twenty plants were clinging to the crevices of the cliff on Paoli Monksnose, Cystopteris fragilis about equally numerous on the same cliff, Botrychium lunatum abundant in the open fields & common also in woods, B. dimorphum & B. convolvulatum a few plants growing near together in woods on the shore of Cunningham Pond.

The common houseleek (Sedum album) is common along the roadside.

1899.

July & Aug

Birds.

As I dealt rather fully with the bird fauna of the Peterboro region in my journal for July & August, 1898, I shall confine myself, in the present connection, to noting only such facts and observations as supplement those obtained last year. The species added to the list this season are as follows:

Turdus fuscescens. — A male in full song in the woods near Day's house July 11<sup>th</sup> and five or six birds (one singing) noted the next day along the banks of the Contoosook River half-a-mile above the village. On the 17<sup>th</sup> one was heard singing and on the 30<sup>th</sup> within the same or another, calling in a dense spruce swamp half-a-mile east of Cunningham Pond near the western base of Park Mountain.

Additions  
to the  
1898 list.

Sitta Canadensis. — One seen July 15<sup>th</sup> in hemlock woods near Day's, two August 6<sup>th</sup> on Park Mountain, others at frequent intervals during the latter half of August the greatest number (six birds) being noted on the 30<sup>th</sup> of that month. Associated with chickadees and mixed flocks of warblers etc.

Comptolypis a. usnei. — One heard singing July 5<sup>th</sup> in hemlocks along the brook below Day's house.

Dendroica aestiva. — Apparently not uncommon in thickets along the Contoosook River half-a-mile above the village where two were seen and a third heard singing July 12<sup>th</sup>. There can be little doubt that these were summer residents here.

Sylvania canadensis. — An adult ♂ in full song met with by Mr. Deane on July 6<sup>th</sup> in swampy woods E. of Cunningham Pond.

1899.

July & Aug.

Scopioa curvirostris. - A single bird observed August 6<sup>th</sup> flying about just over the tops of the spruces on the summit of Park Mountain uttering the characteristic notes on those regions in twos.

Additional  
to the  
1898 list

Spirurus pinus. - On July 28<sup>th</sup> while in the hemlock woods which border the brook that passes through Mrs. Burr's farm I distinctly heard the flight-call of a Pine Siskin repeated several times near at hand. The bird appeared to be passing low down over the tops of the trees.

Contopus borealis. - On August 3<sup>rd</sup> and again two days later an Olive-sided Flycatcher was heard calling at intervals during most of the forenoon in the spruce woods beyond the meadows just below the Dyer's house. On both occasions the "then deer" note was exclusively used. The bird must have come from some other locality or region, otherwise its presence would certainly have been detected before the dates just given.

Buteo borealis. - On July 12<sup>th</sup> I had a fleeting glimpse of what I took to be a Buteo flying around a bend of the Contoosook River half-a-mile above the village. A certain identification was made of one at West Petersboro two days later while on the 20<sup>th</sup> and again on the 31<sup>st</sup> I saw a bird standing erect in the marsh that borders the long pond on Bayport between West Jeffrey & Rindge.

Anthus trivirgatus. Included in the 1898 list on hazy evidence merely. On August 7 of the present summer one passed close over my head as I was driving at evening in the valley not far from the village.

Peterboro, New Hampshire.

1899.

July-Aug.

The following species included in my list for 1898 were not met with the present summer.

Cortophas virens. - On Mr. Deane's authority. The correctness of his identification now seems to me open to some doubt. Birds noted in 1898 not met with in 1899.

Cophocatus pileatus. - On the strength of fresh holes newly; no birds seen.

Buteo borealis. - Only one bird seen in 1898.

Colinus virginianus . " " " "

Baeolophus longicauda.

1899.

July & Aug.

The following supplementary notes and observations were made this season.

Sialia hialis. - One singing near the bridge July 12 and a flock of 17 seen August 29<sup>th</sup> on the George Morrison place was the only birds met with.

Supplementary  
Notes &  
Observations.

Muscula nigrostris. - In full, uninterrupted song up to August 5 or about two weeks later than last year.

Turdus mustelinus. - One seen August 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Purdie in dense young woods about a quarter of a mile west of Cunningham Pond.

Turdus pallasi. - Numbers reduced about one half from those of last year. The reduction was not uniform over the whole region for in some localities, as in the woods near the bridge - the birds were as common as usual but in many places where we found them last season they were wholly absent this. They sang regularly up to August 5<sup>th</sup> this year.

Haerophya velox. - Much less numerous than last season. In full song on July 4, 5, 6, & 26.

Regulus satrapa. - Not nearly so many were seen this year as last although more ground was covered.

Minutella varia. - Last year I noted the Creeper as "Common". This summer it was met with but once - on July 7 when a male was heard in full song.

1899.

July & Aug

Sialia norboracensis. - One seen August 22<sup>nd</sup> on the banks of a small trout brook in dense spruce woods east of Cunningham Pond near the western base of Peak Monadnock.

Additions  
to the  
1898 list

Loxia c. minor. - Seen or heard almost daily during both months and at various places but oftener and in the greatest numbers early in July when several good-sized flocks were met with feeding on larch cones of which the tree bore an abundant crop this year. Most of the birds observed in August were adults in pairs although several pairs were often seen in company forming a smaller flock. During the latter half of July and the first week of August one or two pairs resorted daily to a space of bare, hard-brodden ground just behind Mr. Day's barn coming usually in the morning or early forenoon and at each visit spending half-an-hour or more picking up particles of loose earth & licking the ground with their red tongues extended between the mandibles which was passed sideways on the ground. At first I supposed that some salt had been applied there but when I put out a smaller quantity it was ignored & I finally concluded that the birds were eating the plain dirt which was dry & of a gravelly character. They moved by elastic bounding notes like English Sparrows, I heard Crossbills in what appeared to be full song July 7, 26, 27, & 28 and on August 2, 3, and 7. One of the males which visited Mr. Day's would frequently perch on the ridge pole or eave of the barn and sing almost continuously for ten or twelve minutes at a time sitting rather erect and motionless save for a occasional side turn of the head. Some of his notes were liquid and sweet, <sup>but metallic,</sup> others harsh or guttural. The song as a whole was monotonous and tedious. It may be rendered thus: pip-pip-writ-writ-whink-whink-pip-pip etc.

1899.

July & Aug

Halimotaphila ruficapilla. — A male heard singing on July 4, 7, and 14 and a young bird seen on the summit of Park Mountain August 6 was the only individuals noted this summer. The bird heard on July 14<sup>th</sup> (near Abbott Thayer's home at Dublin, N.H.) sang on wing mounting at an angle of from 45° to a height of about 100 feet. Just as it cleared the treetops (pitch pines), it began chirping; next followed six or eight short, full, rather liquid notes, then the normal song at the close of which the bird shot downward to the earth.

Notes &  
Observations  
Supplementary  
to those  
made in  
1898.

Dendroica coronata. — Decidedly less numerous than last year.

" blackburniana. — One heard singing July 5<sup>th</sup> another on the 15<sup>th</sup>, both in hemlock woods along the brook below Day's house.

Seiurus aurocapillus. — Ceased singing after July 24.

Setophaga ruticilla. — Abundant along the wooded banks of the Contoocook River where eight notes were heard singing and a brood of young seen on July 12. After this date the song was not heard until August 29<sup>th</sup> when an adult ♂ was singing steadily and loudly at about 7 a.m. near the village.

Geothlypis trichas. — Last heard in full song July 26.

Vireo olivaceus. — Singing regularly and loudly to August 5<sup>th</sup>, fully & bravely as late as August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Vireo solitarius. — At least three different males heard singing in July (8<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>) and a fourth on August 4. One of the birds observed in July was singing in the same place Aug. 12.



Peterboro, New Hampshire.

1894.

July & Aug

Siranga erythronotus. - At least three different notes heard singing in July. Observations  
supplementing  
those made  
in 1898.

Progne purpurea. - Five flying over a meadow near Noon's July 29. ✓

Chelidon erythrogaster. - A brood of young were fed by their parents on the same branch (a short dead branch of a beech over the house) daily from July 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

Olivicola riparia - Two birds skimming the fields in front of Mr. Dwyer's on July 25.

Corvidae purpureus. - Rather commoner this year than last and seen at many different places in the region. In full song to July 18<sup>th</sup>.

Poocetes gramineus. - Numbers reduced at least three quarters from those of last year.

Turdus hyemalis. - Found in greatly reduced numbers this season and only on the top & upper slopes of Park Mountain. This fact taken in connection with the scarcity of migrants in Eastern Mass. last spring shows that the species must have suffered heavily during the February storms in the South. ✓

Spizella socialis. - Less numerous than last year. In full song up to August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Spizella pusilla. - Numbers slightly if at all reduced from those of last season. Song especially & fairly up to August 5.

1899.

July & Aug

Melospiza fasciata. - Here as at Concord the Song Sparrow was a comparatively uncommon bird this summer. The greatest note that I heard singing in any one day was four or ordinarily I did not meet with more than one or two. This indicates that the species suffered severely in the South Coast winter. The first song was not heard after July 29<sup>th</sup>. Most of the birds heard here last summer ended the song in a peculiar way but the songs of one that I observed this season were normal.

Notes & Observations supplementing those made in 1898.

Pipilo erythrophthalmus. - In normal numbers and full song to Aug 5.

Zonotrichia albicollis. - Only two met with, one in the cedar brook near our house, the other at the base of Park Mountain. In full song up to July 27.

Cyanospiza cyanea. - Sang regularly and strongly up to August 6, intermittently and feebly as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. - Much more numerous than last summer. Several old birds frequented the fields about Jay's house almost constantly from July 4<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> and small flocks of young appeared there early in August. On July 12<sup>th</sup> I found nine adults (3♂♂ & 6♀♀) in the meadows bordering the Contoosick River. Males were heard in nearly or quite full song July 4, 7, 13, 14 & 19.

Icterus galbula. - An adult male heard singing in the village August 18 and either the same or another in the same place on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Agelaius phoeniceus. - A flock of timber birds, mostly young, seen in a pasture nearly north July 29. Also seen from the cars about the pond near Bridge.

1899.

July & Aug

Cyanocitta cristata. - Heard almost daily during July and a flock of six seen August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sayornis phoebe. - Last singing July 8.

Empidonax minimus. " " " 6

Colaptes auratus. Heard "thumping" almost daily up to July 28 but during August only on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus. - Song notes heard frequently through July but in August only on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

Chordeiles virginianus. - Only one bird observed in July, a ♂ booming over Park Mountain on the 17<sup>th</sup>. In August three birds were seen migrating southward on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup>, two on that of the 20<sup>th</sup>, one on that of the 28<sup>th</sup>. One was also heard before August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Circus hudsonius. - My record for the summer is as follows: July 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, August 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. The bird noted July 6<sup>th</sup> was flying over the brook meadows near our house and was in sight continuously for fifteen minutes. During part of this time she soared in circles like a Buteo rising to a height of 700 or 800 feet. She also repeatedly poised for minutes at a time at a height of about 200 feet, bracing a strong south-west wind and hanging suspended on set wings without drifting perceptibly but changing the inclination of both wings and tail continually and occasionally beating her wings. She looked for all the world like a stuffed bird supported by a wire and was evidently engaged in scanning the meadows beneath for prey. I have seen a Marsh Hawk soar before but never pose like a Roughleg or a Kestrel as this bird was doing.

Notes &  
Observations  
supplementing  
those made  
in 1898.

1899.

July & Aug.

Accipiter velox. One seen August 18<sup>th</sup>

Notes &

Observations

Falco sparverius. - One August 28<sup>th</sup> as I was standing on the summit of Post Mountain a young ♀ Sparrowhawk came flying past skimming low over the rocks. This bird was no doubt a migrant (it was moving southward on the wing), but the species probably breeds sparingly in this region for I saw an adult between Rindge and Winchester at about twelve miles south of Peterboro on the morning of July 10, 1898.

Supplementing  
those made  
in 1898.

Ardea herodias. - One seen at Crampton Pond on August 20<sup>th</sup> and another near West Joffrey on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

Ardea herodias. - Single birds seen Aug. 2, 19, 27 & 28.

Philohela minor. - One seen at Temple on the evening of August 20<sup>th</sup> flying from a wooded hillside to a brook meadow. Albert Thayer tells me that Woodcock breed abundantly this year in the woods near his house at Dublin and that early in July his son Gerald saw one alight twice on the topmost twigs of Spruce of some white firs which were thirty or forty feet high. This happened during the evening twilight but Gerald saw his bird distinctly against the sky & is positive that it was a Woodcock.

1899.

July

1. Murela migratoria. - 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  5 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  8 $\frac{3}{8}$  9 $\frac{3}{8}$  11 $\frac{3}{8}$  12 $\frac{3}{8}$  13 $\frac{3}{8}$  14 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$  17 $\frac{3}{8}$  18 $\frac{3}{8}$  19 $\frac{3}{8}$  20 $\frac{3}{8}$  25 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>(at dinner)</sup> 26 $\frac{3}{8}$  27 $\frac{3}{8}$  28 $\frac{3}{8}$  29 $\frac{3}{8}$  30 $\frac{3}{8}$ .
2. Turdus pallasi. - 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  5 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  8 $\frac{3}{8}$  9 $\frac{3}{8}$  11 $\frac{3}{8}$  13 $\frac{3}{8}$  14 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$  16 $\frac{3}{8}$  17 $\frac{3}{8}$  18 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>Hand all 24 $\frac{3}{8}$  C.S. 4000</sup> 24 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>16 $\frac{3}{8}$  17 $\frac{3}{8}$  28 $\frac{3}{8}$</sup>  26 $\frac{3}{8}$  27 $\frac{3}{8}$  28 $\frac{3}{8}$ .
3. " fuscescens. - 11 $\frac{3}{8}$  12 $\frac{3}{8}$  17 $\frac{3}{8}$  30 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>20 $\frac{3}{8}$  21 $\frac{3}{8}$  22 $\frac{3}{8}$  23 $\frac{3}{8}$  24 $\frac{3}{8}$  25 $\frac{3}{8}$  26 $\frac{3}{8}$  27 $\frac{3}{8}$  28 $\frac{3}{8}$  29 $\frac{3}{8}$  30 $\frac{3}{8}$</sup>
4. Salicocetes carolinensis. - 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  5 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  8 $\frac{3}{8}$  12 $\frac{3}{8}$  14 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$  28 $\frac{3}{8}$  29 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>Contaminated Rain</sup>
5. Harporhynchus rufus. - 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  5 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  20 $\frac{3}{8}$  26 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>in full song 6.30-7 P.M.</sup>
6. Parus atricapillus. - 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$  28 $\frac{3}{8}$  27 $\frac{3}{8}$  28 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>Sitta carolinensis: 6.30 Sitta carolinensis: 5.30, Ke. a. eating. Sitta carolinensis: 5.30</sup>
7. Minioptila varia. 7 $\frac{3}{8}$
8. Helminthophila ruficapilla. - 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  14 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>Dublin</sup>
9. Comptosia a. usneae. - 5 $\frac{3}{8}$
10. Dendroica maculosa. - 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  5 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  11 $\frac{3}{8}$  13 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>P.M. C.S.</sup>
11. " blackburniana. - 5 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$
12. " coronata. - 6 $\frac{3}{8}$  9 $\frac{3}{8}$  17 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>P.M. C.P. 20 $\frac{3}{8}$</sup>
13. " viridis. - 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  5 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  9 $\frac{3}{8}$  13 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$  20 $\frac{3}{8}$  28 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>Contaminated Rain 9 $\frac{3}{8}$  10 $\frac{3}{8}$  11 $\frac{3}{8}$</sup>
14. " distans. - 12 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>Contaminated Rain</sup>
15. " pennsylvanica. 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  12 $\frac{3}{8}$
16. Spinus amoenus. 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  5 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  8 $\frac{3}{8}$  9 $\frac{3}{8}$  11 $\frac{3}{8}$  13 $\frac{3}{8}$  14 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$  18 $\frac{3}{8}$  24 $\frac{3}{8}$
17. Geothlypis trichas. 3 $\frac{3}{8}$  4 $\frac{3}{8}$  5 $\frac{3}{8}$  6 $\frac{3}{8}$  7 $\frac{3}{8}$  11 $\frac{3}{8}$  12 $\frac{3}{8}$  14 $\frac{3}{8}$  15 $\frac{3}{8}$  17 $\frac{3}{8}$  18 $\frac{3}{8}$  20 $\frac{3}{8}$  24 $\frac{3}{8}$  26 $\frac{3}{8}$  <sup>Contaminated Rain</sup>

1899.

July

18. *Sylvania canadensis*. - 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> (W. Drury) <sup>Cunningham P.</sup>

19. *Setophaga ruticilla*. - 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> <sup>Controversial</sup> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> <sup>Cunningham P.</sup> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> <sup>Controversial</sup> <sup>Black</sup> <sup>by young.</sup>

20. *Vireo olivaceus*. - 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 28<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 30<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>

21. " *solitaria*. - 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> <sup>Cunningham P.</sup> <sup>Controversial</sup> <sup>Black</sup> <sup>by young.</sup>

22. *Amphisp. cedrorum*. - 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>

23. *Chelidon erythrogaster*. - 3, 4<sup>20</sup> 5<sup>20</sup> 6<sup>20</sup> 7<sup>20</sup> 8<sup>20</sup> 9<sup>20</sup> 11<sup>20</sup> 12<sup>20</sup> 13, 14, 15<sup>20</sup> 16<sup>20</sup> 17, 18, 19, 20<sup>20</sup> 25<sup>20</sup> 26<sup>20</sup> 28<sup>20</sup>

24. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. - 8<sup>20</sup> 12<sup>20</sup> 14<sup>20</sup> 25<sup>20</sup> 26<sup>20</sup> <sup>Days</sup> <sup>Days</sup> <sup>Days</sup>

25. *Carpodacus purpureus*. - 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 28<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>

26. *Loxia c. minor*. - 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 25<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 28<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> <sup>Days</sup> <sup>Days</sup> <sup>Days</sup>

27. *Spinus tristis*. - 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18, 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 28<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>

28. *Poecetes gramineus*. - 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>

29. *Zonotrichia albicollis*. - 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> <sup>C.S.</sup> <sup>R.H.</sup> <sup>C.S.</sup> <sup>C.S.</sup> <sup>C.S.</sup> <sup>C.S.</sup> <sup>C.S.</sup> <sup>C.S.</sup> <sup>C.S.</sup> <sup>C.S.</sup>

30. *Spizella socialis* 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 20<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 28<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 30<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub>

31. " *pusilla*. - 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 14<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 16<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 19<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 24<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 26<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 28<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> <sup>Controversial</sup> <sup>Black</sup> <sup>by young.</sup>

? *Junco hyemalis* 29<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> 30<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> <sup>Days</sup> <sup>Days</sup>

1899.

July

32. *Melospiza fasciata*. - 3<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 5<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 9<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 11<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 13<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 16<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 17<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 18<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 24<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 25<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>.  
29<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
33. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. - 3<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 5<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 9<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 13<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 16<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 17<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 18<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 24<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 25<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 28<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 29<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
34. *Cyanospiza cyanea*. - 3<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 5<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 9<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 11<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 13<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 16<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 17<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 18<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 24<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 28<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 29<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 30<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 31<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
35. *Dotichomyis oryzivorus*. - <sup>Doyle's do. do.</sup> 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 5<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 8<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 9<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 11<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 13<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>.  
<sup>near Doyle</sup> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 8<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 9<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 11<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 13<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>.  
<sup>Contestant</sup> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 13<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>.  
<sup>Doyle's form</sup> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>.  
<sup>Doyle's</sup> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>.
36. *Corus americanus*. - 3<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 25<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
37. *Cyanocitta cristata*. - 5<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 9<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 16<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 17<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 18<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 25<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 28<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
38. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. - 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 5<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 17<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 28<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 29<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
39. *Sayornis phoebe*. - 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 8<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 9<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 13<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 16<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 18<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 20<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 29<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
40. *Empidonax minimus*. - 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 13<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 17<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 29<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
41. *Chondestes pelagicus*. - 3<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 5<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 17<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 18<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 29<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
42. *Dryobates villosus*. - 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 14<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 28<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
43. *Colaptes auratus*. - 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 8<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 12<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 28<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
44. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*. - 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 17<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 18<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 19<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 26<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 27<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 28<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 29<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
45. *Buteo latrans*. - 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 15<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>
46. *Circus hudsonius*. - 4<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 6<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 7<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub> 28<sup>2</sup><sub>8</sub>

1899.

July.

47. Passer domesticus. <sup>Unsp.</sup> 7 W. Dunn
48. Ceryle alcyon <sup>Antonovsk. 7 W. Dunn</sup> 12' 18" <sup>Post on</sup> 26' 31"
49. Ardea virescens <sup>Antonovsk. 14 W. Dunn</sup> 12' 14"
50. Fulica americana <sup>Antonovsk. 12 W. Dunn</sup> 12' 18" 28"
51. Pelecanus erythrorhynchos <sup>Antonovsk. 12 W. Dunn</sup> 12' 18" 17" 29"
52. Dryobates pubescens <sup>Days 18' 18"</sup>
53. Tachycineta bicolor <sup>Days 14' 20" 25"</sup>
54. Sialia sialis <sup>Unsp.</sup> 12"
55. Botaurus lentiginosus <sup>Com. River 12' 14' 20' 31"</sup>
56. Sitta canadensis <sup>Antonovsk. 18"</sup>
57. Regulus satrapa <sup>Antonovsk. 15' 20"</sup>
58. Procyon lotor <sup>Antonovsk. 15"</sup>
59. Meleagris gallopavo <sup>Unsp.</sup> 14"
60. Chordeiles virginianus <sup>Unsp.</sup> 17"
61. Coturnix coturnix <sup>Unsp.</sup> 25"



Peterborough, New Hampshire

1899.

July.

62. Spirus pinus 28 (1 heard flying over  
hundreds at Brook)

63. Progne purpurea <sup>nois</sup> 29 (4)

64. Agelaius phoeniceus <sup>Best seen near</sup> 29 (13) <sup>nois</sup> Also seen from cars at pond in Bridge.

65. Sitta carolinensis 26 (1 on large elm at deserted house on road to New Ipswich 1 m. beyond Hammonds)

1899.

August

1. Merula migratoria 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  3 $\frac{1}{2}$  5 $\frac{1}{2}$  18<sup>Full size, 1 calling on nest.</sup> 29<sup>8</sup>
2. Turdus pallasi 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  2 $\frac{2}{3}$  3 $\frac{1}{2}$  4 $\frac{2}{3}$  5 $\frac{4}{5}$  6<sup>1</sup>
3. " mustelinus <sup>near Cassin's form. Pres. 2<sup>1</sup> full size, seen by H. A. Parker</sup>
4. Otoscoptes coarctatus 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  29<sup>1</sup>
5. Harporhynchus rufus 2<sup>hd.</sup> 4<sup>hd.</sup>
6. Parus atricapillus 2<sup>hd.</sup> 4<sup>hd.</sup> 18<sup>hd.</sup> 20<sup>hd.</sup> 29<sup>hd.</sup> 30<sup>hd.</sup>
7. Vireo olivaceus 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  3 $\frac{1}{2}$  4 $\frac{3}{4}$  5 $\frac{2}{3}$  1<sup>2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> full grown.</sup> 19<sup>2</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>2</sup>
8. Ampelis cedrorum 2<sup>2</sup> 4<sup>6</sup> 5<sup>4</sup> 6<sup>4</sup> 18<sup>6</sup> 19<sup>6</sup> 20<sup>6</sup> 30<sup>hd.</sup>
9. Chelidon erythrogaster 2, 3, 4<sup>(30)</sup> 5<sup>(30)</sup> 6<sup>(19)</sup>
10. Cotile riparia <sup>alien</sup> 1<sup>(3)</sup>
11. Progne subis <sup>disjunct form. 3<sup>hd.</sup> full size.</sup>
12. Loxia c. minor 2<sup>2</sup> 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  4<sup>hd.</sup> 5<sup>hd.</sup> 6<sup>hd.</sup> 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  <sup>Full size.</sup> 18<sup>hd.</sup> 19<sup>hd.</sup> 25<sup>hd.</sup> 26<sup>(22)</sup> 27<sup>hd.</sup> 28<sup>hd.</sup> 29<sup>hd.</sup> 30<sup>hd.</sup>
13. Spinus tristis 3<sup>hd.</sup> 4<sup>hd.</sup> 5<sup>hd.</sup> 18 $\frac{1}{2}$  19 $\frac{1}{2}$  20 $\frac{1}{2}$  21 $\frac{1}{2}$
14. Spinus socialis 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  3 $\frac{1}{2}$  26<sup>(12)</sup> 29<sup>(6)</sup>
15. Spizella pinus 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  3 $\frac{1}{2}$  4 $\frac{1}{2}$  5 $\frac{1}{2}$  20<sup>2</sup>

1899.

August

16. Melospiza fasciata. - 2<sup>Days</sup> 6<sup>Days</sup> 6<sup>Days</sup> 29<sup>4</sup>
17. Pipilo erythrophthalmus 2<sup>1/2</sup> 3<sup>1/2</sup> 4<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>1/2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup>
18. Cyanospiza cyanea 1<sup>1/2</sup> 2<sup>1/2</sup> 3<sup>1/2</sup> 4<sup>1/2</sup> 5<sup>1/2</sup> 6<sup>1/2</sup> 19<sup>8</sup> 20<sup>8</sup>
19. Dolichonyx oryzivorus 2<sup>1/2</sup> 5<sup>1/2</sup>
20. Corvus americanus 6<sup>1/2</sup> 27<sup>(12)</sup>
21. Cyanocitta cristata 20<sup>(2)</sup>
22. Sayornis phoebe 2<sup>1/2</sup> 20<sup>1/2</sup> 29<sup>2</sup>
23. Contopus borealis 3<sup>1/2</sup> 5<sup>1/2</sup>
24. Chondestes pelagicus 3<sup>1/2</sup> 6<sup>1/2</sup> 20<sup>(30)</sup> 21<sup>(30)</sup> at 11. Jaffrey pond  
22<sup>(30)</sup> 23<sup>(30)</sup> 24<sup>(30)</sup>
25. Colaptes auratus 2<sup>1/2</sup> 3<sup>1/2</sup>
26. Buteo borealis 2<sup>1/2</sup> 3<sup>1/2</sup> 5<sup>1/2</sup>
27. Vireo solitarius 4<sup>1/2</sup> 5<sup>1/2</sup> 19<sup>1/2</sup>
28. Petrochelidon lunifrons 5<sup>1/2</sup>
29. Coccyzus erythrophthalmus 3<sup>2</sup> 5<sup>1/2</sup> 6<sup>2</sup>
30. Scolecophagus triseriatus 4<sup>1/2</sup> 18<sup>1/2</sup> 27<sup>1/2</sup> 29<sup>1/2</sup>

Peterboro, New Hampshire.

1898.

August

31. *Andra virescens* <sup>More below 700 yds</sup> 2' <sup>200 yds</sup> 19' 27' 28'
32. *Bonasa umbellus* 3 ♂ R.S. 17<sup>5</sup> R.S.
33. *Loxia curvirostra* <sup>Summer of</sup> 6' <sup>Full</sup> <sup>monstrous</sup>
34. *Regulus satrapa* <sup>Oriskany. Full M. Cedar</sup> 5' <sup>6' 20'</sup> <sup>22' 29'</sup>
35. *Junco hyemalis* <sup>Full Monstrous</sup> 6' <sup>3</sup> <sup>18'</sup> <sup>21'</sup> <sup>28'</sup> <sup>Summer of</sup>
36. *Sitta canadensis* <sup>Full M. 18' 20' 29' 30'</sup> 6' <sup>2</sup> <sup>18'</sup> <sup>20'</sup> <sup>29'</sup> <sup>30'</sup>
37. *Helminthophila ruficapilla* <sup>Sp. of</sup> 6' <sup>Full</sup>
38. *Dendica coronata* <sup>Sp. of</sup> 6' <sup>2</sup> <sup>18'</sup> <sup>27'</sup> <sup>29'</sup>
39. *Tyrannus tyrannus* 5' 6' 18' 19' 20'
40. *Dryobates pubescens* 5' 6'
41. *Circus hudsonius* <sup>Half very heavy</sup> 6' <sup>2</sup> <sup>18'</sup> <sup>27'</sup>
42. *Actitis macularia* <sup>Cumpton Pond</sup> 18' <sup>head on</sup>
43. *Rhyacophila setularis* <sup>Mud flats at Cumpton Pond</sup> 16' <sup>near W. 1897</sup>
44. *Icterus galbula* <sup>Don't know</sup> 18' <sup>18' 20' 21' 22' 23' 24' 25' 26' 27' 28' 29' 30'</sup> <sup>Plutonium Village</sup>
45. *Accipiter velox* <sup>Half very heavy</sup> 18' <sup>Full</sup> <sup>monstrous</sup>

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1899

August

45. Chondestes virginicus 17<sup>②</sup> Aug. S. <sup>Pale Monodnock was</sup> 18<sup>②</sup> Aug. S. <sup>head half way</sup> 20<sup>②</sup> Aug. S. <sup>flying above</sup> 28<sup>①</sup>

[Philohela minor 20<sup>①</sup> <sup>Temple Dam, Middle Island,</sup>  
<sup>flying from woods to</sup>  
<sup>meadows at evening.</sup>

46. Scirrus noveboracensis 22<sup>①</sup> <sup>Not found in</sup>  
<sup>field today.</sup>

47. Falco sparverius 28<sup>①</sup> <sup>juv. & skinning one summit of Park Monodnock. Saw another</sup>  
<sup>near Hiramston on July 10</sup>

48. Setophaga ruticilla 29<sup>②</sup> <sup>Rutten village</sup>  
<sup>29<sup>②</sup> and 30<sup>②</sup> flying freely.</sup>

49. Sialia sialis 29<sup>②</sup> <sup>Same morning</sup>  
<sup>(22) seen</sup>

50. Ardea herodias 24<sup>①</sup> <sup>Amington</sup>  
<sup>8<sup>①</sup> to Pond 24<sup>①</sup></sup>

51. Podiceps gramineus 29<sup>②</sup>

52. Anthus vociferus 7<sup>①</sup> <sup>seen at evening</sup>  
<sup>flying along road, near village.</sup>

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1899.

July & Aug

As the summer advanced the local birds became less and migration less numerously represented from week to week until the country was nearly drained of them but their places were next made good by the arrival of more western-birding species or individuals. Indeed the usual August visitors of the latter seem to fly in & inconspicuously as to be almost wanting. The only well-worked western flight occurred on August 18<sup>th</sup> when, as I was camping on the crest of Peck Monadnock, I heard a small number of warblers chirping merrily and on the following night between 8 and 12 P.M. when there was a continuous and rather heavy flight of warblers as well as of those mysterious birds which I hear in such numbers at Pine Point and which are either Thrushes or Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, or both.

As I have already noted night hawks were seen passing Peckwood at evening on several occasions later in August. The departure of the Swallows was effected gradually and inconspicuously the birds first coming from the farm and collecting on the telephone wires along the roadside and then thinning out from day to day until all were gone.

August 21 I made up a bed this evening on the piazza of a charter house a familiar on the crest of Peck Monadnock Mountain and went to sleep at Snake. about 11 P.M. An hour later I awoke to find a Snake about five inches long coiled on my left chest! I brushed him off when he glided to the edge of the piazza & coiled. Sometime afterwards I again awoke to find him in the old place. This was repeated still a third time when I caught & put him in a box & sent him to Gorham. The night was cool & damp & the darkness brought very close because of the conjugal warmth. The piazza was raised on posts to a height of six feet above the ground.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

July & Aug

July 22

Although the Flickers have been present in the garden almost constantly up to this date we have not seen them about the nest in the box since July 2nd. Suspecting that the nest must have been deserted I examined it this morning and found the eight eggs still unincubated. Gilbert blew them carefully but afterwards dropped the tray in which they had been placed and broke them all. Most of them were infertile and addled but a few contained small dead embryos. The birds must have incubated them at least a month and I believe much longer than this.

Flicker's  
nest

August 1

At day break I heard the flight call of an Upland Plover which was apparently passing low over the house. Crows were coming and Gray Squirrels barking in the old lindens. Robins, Redstarts and Yellow Warblers are still numerous in the garden. I heard a Wood Pewee in the lindens late in the afternoon.

Upland  
Plover

- " 8 A Robin singing in the lindens. Swifts flying over the place at evening.
- " 9 A Chickadee calling phoebe and an adult ♂ Redstart in full song. Robins (2 or 3), Yellow Warblers, Cedar birds & Orioles in the garden. A ♀ Goldfinch in the juniper collecting nest materials.
- " 10 Adult Redstart, Yellow Warbler & Yellow-throated Vireo singing early this morning; two Robins in full song in the forenoon. Cedar birds & Browed Grackles seen. A Night Hawk heard low over the house at 2 a.m. My Pygms are eating the fruit of the new cherry fully. They object

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

July & Aug During these months I visited Cambridge nearly every week usually spending a day and night but on several occasions stopping two or three days. The following notes are all that I find in my diary which relate to birds seen during these visits.

July 1 Three Red Crossbills flew over the garden this morning piping loudly. Red Crossbills

" 2 Young Robins, Yellow Warblers, Redstarts, Grosbeaks & Orioles in the garden. The ♀ Flicker "shouting" and what I took to be the ♀ her to fly from the nest in the box.

" 3 The Flicker shouting and a Grosbeak singing both voce in the garden.

" 10 A Hummingbird in the garden.

" 21 Awaking at daybreak this morning I heard Crows cawing, Gray Squirrels chattering, a Flicker shouting and a Robin singing in the hedges in front of the house. Later I found the garden abuzz with Robins, Yellow Warblers, Redstarts, Red-eyed Vireos and Orioles, most of them being young birds. There are comparatively few English Sparrows about the place this season.

In the afternoon took a drive through Haverly and the Meadows to Wellington Farm returning by way of Prospect Street. The country was drought-stricken & the roads deep with dust. Heard five Song Sparrows singing and saw a flock of fully thirty Orioles accompanied by several Robins & Kingbirds in a cluster of oaks opposite the western end of Prospect Street. Most of the Orioles were young birds.

Found several plants of Acer rubra hung with deep red fruit on the banks of a brook near the western entrance to Wellington Farm.



Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

July & Aug.

Aug. 10 all over the trees and walk out on the branches to their very tips.  
(No. 2)

The garden is swarming with cats & mice which cross the paths and are seen scrambling about among the flowers at all hours of the day. Their numbers and boldness are due, no doubt, to the complete absence of my cat-fury fever. Only one cat has been detected in the garden this season and she came in through an open gate.

" 15 A Water Thrush, one or two Robins & Orioles and a Yellow Warbler were seen in the garden to-day. A Wood Pewee was singing in the old lindens.

The only Hummingbird which I saw in the garden this summer was the bird noted July 10<sup>th</sup>. I believe that a few others were seen during my absence by Gilbert or Karl (the gardener), but they were certainly exceptionally scarce this year although we had as many flowers of the kinds that attract them as we have ever had.

Unusual  
scarcity of  
Hummingbirds.

Robins were somewhat less numerous than usual; Redstarts, Yellow Warblers, and Red-eyed Vireos in about their usual numbers; Mocking Birds, Yellow-throated Vireos and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks noted in the far off; we had Yellow-billed Cuckoos but no pair of Chipping Sparrows settled either on the place or very near it. Purple Finches have not nested for several years and Least Flycatchers not since 1897. Cherry Swifts still nest somewhere in the neighborhood to judge from their frequent visits.

1844.

July 4<sup>th</sup>

On my way to Concord to visit Mr. [unclear] I stopped at Plants Concord and visited the garden and the Ball's Hill woods introduced taking them, on each occasion, more or less plants most of which into my were set out on or near Pulpit Rock where the conditions woods: seem to be especially favorable for the successful introduction of the "Hyer" or more interesting northern species such as the Dimorph, Dallwada, Monarda, etc. I also planted a good many things along the northern slope of Pulpit Hill and some purple-fringed and round-leaved Habenaria near foot in Davis's swamp and Woodstock Run. etc. I shall write a full list of these introduced plants in this journal at the end of the season & will not doubt mention some more. During my visits to Concord the following birds were noted

July 10

Hairy Woodpecker heard in Am. Barren orchard.

Hairy Woodpeck.

"

" 23

Two Bluebirds in full song. I shot a brood of young Pigeons which were about as large as Pigeons.

Bluebirds

" 31

Red Crossbills heard near Pulpit Rock. Wood Pewees common throughout my woods and singing freely. Several Wilson's Thrushes. Small flocks of Waxwings, mostly Chestnut-bellied and Redstarts, in the oaks on Ball's Hill. An adult Downy Woodpecker in badly worn and stained plumage visited a pine of sweet which has been hanging in an oak near the cabin since last April. Although it was nearly black with age & covered with mould the bird ate all of its grubs.

Downy Woodpecker  
eating sweet

August 16

Red-eyed Vireos and Wood Pewees singing in the woods. Many Waxwings, more of them Chestnut-bellied, on Ball's Hill. A Robin's Thrush flowered by the river near the cabin.

Red-eyed Vireos  
& Wood Pewees  
still singing

Concord, Mass.

1899.

July-Aug.

August 23

A Partridge drumming steadily at short, regular intervals in the woods South-east of Pulpit Rock (not at the usual station on the wall) drumming.

" 31 The Partridge again drumming near Pulpit Rock.

1899.

Aug. 11-15

I went to South Yarmouth on the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> and returned on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> spending the intervening days with the Stones. Their house is about a mile from the center of the town near the mouth of Bass River. We drove a great deal and devoted much time to searching Plants for plants of which I brought back a number of living specimens to put in my wild garden. On the 12<sup>th</sup> we crossed the Cape to Scargo Hill on the north shore, on the 13<sup>th</sup> visited Herring Pond, on the 14<sup>th</sup> went to Dennis and thence through dense woods to the shore losing our way and traversing miles of blind, half-grown-up wood roads along which Cornus canadensis grows abundantly in places. One of the most conspicuous and attractive of the wild flowers in bloom at this season was the yellow aster. Tephrosia was common but of course out of bloom. The butterfly or orange milkweed was seen in several places but it is much less common in this region than I had supposed. Partridge pea was abundant along the roadside near Scargo Hill. Post oaks were common in several places. I saw all our other common New England oaks except the red & swamp white. Birds were rather scarce. In the open pitch pine woods I heard Birds. Pine Warblers, Hooded Mice and Chipping Sparrows singing and heard (on the 13<sup>th</sup>) a Hermit Thrush. I saw only one Meadow Lark Scarcity of during my stay (and but two or three during the journey from Meadow Larks to Boston) and I did not see nor hear a Quail. A few Wilson's Terns visited the Bass River daily and on the 13<sup>th</sup> I saw a dozen or more as well as several Least Terns flying over Herring Pond. Night Herons in small numbers came into the marshes along the river at evening. Grass Finches were exceedingly scarce and I found no Yellow-winged Sparrows.

South Yarmouth, Mass.

1899.

Aug. 11. 15  
(no. 2)

Directly in front of the Stew's house stands a large, spreading willow under which, at the time of my visit, was a wooden bench. As I was walking past this within a yard or two in the twilight on the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> a Whippoorwill started, apparently from the base of the bench, and fluttered slowly off calling wick-wick or eight times in quick succession and opening and shutting its large upturned wings alternately, flashing and disappearing in the dim light.

Whippoorwill

We found fresh tracks of a large Otter on a sandy beach at Spring Pond and a farmer whom we met there told me that these animals have become numerous of late years in the region about South Yarmouth. He added that they were seldom killed and that no one had succeeded in trapping any of them although the attempt had been frequently made.

Otter

During a long drive after dark on the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> I learned that here, as about Pettersboro, N. H., the Acrida sound, (Acrida gryllus) are generally distributed throughout the woods instead of restricted to cultivated grounds & special locations as is usually the case in Middlesex County, Mass. Katy-dids are rather numerous in the South Yarmouth woods but they are confined to certain locations there. In the fields near the Stew's house as well as elsewhere I heard at night the prolonged cicada like notes of the large green locust that is so common about Yarmouth and to the southward of New England.

Insect

1899.

September

The drought which prevailed during the Spring, Summer and autumn of the present year was broken in September only by light rain on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, by continuous and rather heavy rain on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, & by dense & stormy thunder showers on other dates. There were twenty wholly clear days and four when the sun shone nearly or quite half the time. Killing frosts occurred on the evenings of the 14<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. Most of days were warm & several of them uncomfortably so. There was but little windy weather.

Weather.

I visited the Swiches at Glendale from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, Read of my the Cheshamers at North Scituate from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, perennial the Gellings at Bethel (Maine) from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to October 4<sup>th</sup> unusually. I was at Cambridge during a portion of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> & the whole of the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. My only trip to Concord was on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

At Cambridge I noted in one garden a Brown Thrasher and a flock of 12 Cedar Birds on the 15<sup>th</sup> and a Swainson's Thrush on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The Cedar Birds were feeding on worm chassins. The Thrush sang almost continuously & in nearly full tones for fifteen minutes or more during a light shower just before sunset.

Birds in  
our garden

Swainson's  
Thrush.

At Concord I heard a Partridge drumming near Pulpit Rock and found the woods very often alive with Red-bellied Nuthatches.

Birds at  
Concord.

At North Scituate I heard the challenging call of a Wood Thrush on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> & the deep of a Brown Creeper on the 15<sup>th</sup>. No. Scituate. Canadian Nuthatches, Crows, Jays, Robins & Flickers were numerous. A Phoebe was singing fully on the 16<sup>th</sup> & flocks of Cedar Birds were seen on the 17.

Glendale; Berkshire County, Mass.

1899.

September

1-15

During my stay at Glendale I devoted most of my time to studying and collecting plants of which I sent many living specimens packed in sphagnum moss to Cambridge and Anvers where my men received and replanted them. The flora of the woods in the immediate neighborhood of Mr. French's house was so rich and varied that I rarely went more than a mile away in any direction and I often spent half a day picking over a space of a few acres. A marked peculiarity of the plant life as compared with that of Eastern Massachusetts was the general distribution and abundance of most of the species and the surprising number <sup>of species</sup> which could be often found growing in close proximity. Few plants seemed to be locally restricted and still fewer monopolized certain areas as is so often the case at home. On the contrary it was usually possible to find within the space of an acre or so the representatives of pretty nearly every species which occurred on similar ground throughout the whole surrounding region. Thus Hepaticas, blood root, Trilliums, Arbutus, Maiden's hair ferns, Ladys Slippers (*acaulis* & *pubescens*), Canada violets, yellow violets, & many other interesting plants were scattered everywhere through the woods. There was a fair representation of ferns of which I found & identified as less than twenty-five species, among them *Aspidium gellicum* which, by the way, was an exception to the rule just mentioned for I met with only three specimens and these grew very near together.

The soil throughout most of the woods was exceedingly rich yet very light & friable. ~~where~~ even where the ground was springy.

plants

Glendale, Berkshire County, Mass.

1899.

September  
1-13

The following birds were noted at Glendale:

Sialia sialis. - Flight call heard on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Merula migratoria. - A flock of twelve seen on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and another of 4<sup>th</sup> on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Besides a few scattering birds on other occasions.

Larus argentatus. - One heard calling in the evening twilight on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Parus atricapillus. - Rather common in small flocks for being the greatest number seen together at one time although the flocks were often accompanied by Geothlypis & various kinds of migrating warblers.

Sitta carolinensis. - One seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>, another the following day, both in an orchard near the house.

Sitta canadensis. - Heard on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> in hemlock woods.

Minutella varia. - An adult ♂ in full song on the 4<sup>th</sup> was the only individual met with.

Dendroica virens. - An adult ♂ with full black throat & a young male seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>, but ♀♀ or young ♂♂ on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Dendroica caerulescens. - A ♂ on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dendroica pennsylvanica. - A ♂ with rich chestnut flanks & a plain green & white bird seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>.



Glendale, Berkshire Co., Mass.

1899.

September  
1-15

Dendroica black-bracon. - An adult ♂ & a young bird seen together on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dendroica maculosa. - Two on the 4<sup>th</sup>, one on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and three apparently young birds.

Dendroica castanea. - One with chestnut flanks seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Dendroica striata. - A young bird on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Sylvania canadensis. - An adult ♂ with heavily spotted breast was seen on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Sylvania pusilla. - An adult bird (probably ♂) with black crown seen in hemlock woods in company with hooded Redstarts on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Setophaga ruticilla. - An adult ♂ in full plumage seen on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Scirrus americanus. - One on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Amphisp. cedrorum. - Heard on the 4<sup>th</sup>, but birds seen together on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and a flock of thirty noted on the 7<sup>th</sup> and in or near some cherry trees covered with ripe fruit.

Pranga erythronotus. - One in nearly full song close to the house at about dinner on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the chirp-clear call heard on the 7<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>.

Spirus tristis. - 4 ♂♂ & 7 ♀♀

✓  
Tanager  
singing  
Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>

Glendale, Berkshire County, Mass.

1899.

September  
1-15.

Poocetis graminea. - Five seen together on the 10<sup>th</sup>

Turdus hyemalis. - Four or five together on the 11<sup>th</sup>

Spizella socialis. - Two seen on the 9<sup>th</sup>, three on the 10<sup>th</sup>, & a flock of fifteen on the 12<sup>th</sup>

Melospiza fasciata. - Although Song Sparrows have been comparatively scarce everywhere this year I was surprised to meet with only one during my stay at Glendale. This bird was shot at first in a wooded place near the house.

<sup>very</sup>  
Scarcely of  
Song Sparrows

Habia ludoviciana. - One note heard on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

Corvus americanus. - Crows were decidedly scarce about Glendale. I did not see more than two or three during any one day.

Cyanocitta cristata. - Seen or heard almost daily. On the 7<sup>th</sup> I noted at least ten different birds.

Icterus galbula. - One in the orchard on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Dryobates villosus. - One on the 12<sup>th</sup> & another on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Dryobates pubescens. - One on the 4<sup>th</sup>, another on the 7<sup>th</sup>

Colaptes auratus. - Only two noted, one on the 6<sup>th</sup> the other on the following day.

Contopus virens. - One singing freely on the 5<sup>th</sup>

Glenade, Berkshire County, Mass.

1899.

September  
1-15

Chaetanus fuscescens. 2<sup>♂</sup> 3<sup>♀</sup> 6<sup>(8)</sup>. All these birds were seen at evening flying about Mr. French's fields into one of the clannings of which they dropped in great numbers after making a number of seemingly vain attempts to do so. Such flights are not uncommon but on these occasions the birds descended dozens of times only to shut off just as they reached the top of the clanning.

Chordeiles virginianus. - On the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> no less than five parties of Nighthawks crossing, respectively 6, 5, 4, 3 & 2 birds each passed within sight of our house all moving due south at a noticeably high and undulating migration. I afterwards learned from Miss Kyles that a considerable flight passed over Mr. Monmouth the same evening. On the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> I saw a single Nighthawk flying south over Stockbridge.

Bonasa umbella. - The Glenade Sportsman considered Partridge scarce this autumn. I saw them together in Mr. French's woods on the 11<sup>th</sup> & five days later.

Bethel, Maine.

1899.

Sept 22 to  
Oct. 4

Plant life

I went to Bethel on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and returned to Cambridge on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Spending the interim, with the exception of one day and a portion of two others which I devoted to a flying trip to Umbagog, with my friends the Jakings, and giving most of my time to a careful study of the ~~flora~~ <sup>plants</sup> of the region although the birds were by no means neglected.

The flora, like that at Umbagog, proved disappointingly meagre and disappointing. Its lack of variety and one quickly tires of the monotony of finding everywhere the same species in excessive abundance and small variety. This was especially true of the floras of which the best was surprisingly lower. Aspidium spinulosum & its varieties was by far the commonest form and in most places it filled the woods to the practical exclusion of everything else. A. cristatum was fairly common, however, as was also Phlegmaria polypodioides. P. hexagonum I found in only one locality. Of course there were the Osmundas of all their species if I remember rightly, as were as Aspidium thelypteris & A. nodosum. I did not find any species of Asplenium or Mosses and Aspidium mospinale, A. acrostichoides, Polypodium vulgare and Adiantum petiolatum were also apparently wanting. Pteris aquilina was abundant everywhere I came. A pine swamp eastward of the village was filled in places with Larix and Abies nigra. Chiocypus, Linnaea, & Cypripedium were everywhere abundant and most of the other common northern-growing lowly plants present in fair numbers. Red pines grew by thousands along the river road west of the bridge that crosses the Androscoggin & I saw a cluster of white pines on the outskirts of the village. I drove a little & walked a great deal. On my return to Cambridge I brought many plants for my cold garden.

1899.

Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>

List of Birds noted at Bethel, between Bethel and

Oct. 4.

Upton, and at Lake Umbagog.

✓ Sialia sialis. - Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> <sup>near</sup> Newry.

✓ Musca migratoria. - Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Bethel; 30<sup>th</sup> <sup>(20)</sup> Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> (40) Bethel  
Bethel and Upton.

✓ Turdus pallasi. - Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Bethel; 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bethel  
Bethel & Upton.

✓ Turdus a. bicknelli. - Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> = very small birds by roadside in Newry.

Parus atricapillus. - Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> <sup>thick</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Bethel.

Sitta canadensis. - Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> Bethel.

✓ Regulus satrapa. - Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> = Godwin's.

Regulus calendula. - Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> Bethel.

Certhia f. americana. - Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Bethel (in full song)

Troglodytes hyemalis. - Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> Bethel.

Minicetta varia. - Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> Bethel

✓ Anthus ludovicianus. - Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Upton.

Dendroica coronata. - Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Bethel.

" striata. Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Bethel.

Oxford County, Maine.

1899.

Sept. 22 to Dendroica irris. — Sept. 25<sup>(4)</sup> 26<sup>(5)</sup> 27<sup>2</sup> Bethel.  
Oct. 4

Dendroica caerulescens. — Sept. 28<sup>2</sup> Bethel.

Dendroica palmarum. — { On Sept. 26<sup>2</sup> a large mixed flock of  
" " hypochrysa } warblers visited the shrubbery about  
Dr. Schimp's house at Bethel. Among  
them were one D. palmarum & two  
D. h. hypochrysa. I saw all these birds  
distinctly & identified them positively.

Geothlypis trichas. — Oct. 1<sup>1</sup> Upton.

Vireo olivaceus. — Sept. 26<sup>(5)</sup> Bethel (singing freely & loudly)

Corvus leucophaea. — Sept. 23<sup>(23)</sup> 26<sup>24</sup> 27<sup>24</sup> Bethel.  
Under date of Sept. 26 I wrote in my diary, the country is flooded  
with flocks of both species. I saw a few other about Bethel, & Maine  
is the most abundant of the two

Corvus c. merriam. — Sept. 24<sup>24</sup> 26<sup>24</sup> 27<sup>24</sup> 28<sup>24</sup> 29<sup>24</sup> Bethel.

Junco hyemalis. — Sept. 27<sup>(6)</sup> Bethel.

✓ Spinus socialis. — Sept. 30<sup>30</sup> Oct. 2<sup>15</sup> between Bethel & Upton.  
Oct. 1<sup>(3)</sup> Calais.

✓ Zonotrichia albicollis. — Sept. 23<sup>24</sup> 24<sup>24</sup> 27<sup>24</sup> 28<sup>(24)</sup> 29<sup>(24)</sup> Bethel.  
Sept. 30<sup>24</sup> Oct. 2<sup>24</sup> between Bethel & Upton.

✓ Zonotrichia leucophrys. — Sept. 23<sup>24</sup> 24<sup>24</sup> 29<sup>24</sup> Bethel.  
" 30<sup>30</sup> Oct. 2<sup>20</sup> between Bethel & Upton.

Melospiza fasciata. — Sept. 23<sup>24</sup> 27<sup>24</sup> Bethel.

1899.

Sept. 22 to  
Oct. 4

- Melospiza georgiana. - Sept. 27<sup>1</sup> Bethel.
- Cyanospiza cyana. - Sept. 27<sup>1/2</sup> (in full song) Bethel.
- Scotcephopus corollinus. - Sept. 23<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>(12)</sup> Bethel.
- ✓ Corvus americanus. - Sept. 23<sup>1/2</sup>, 25<sup>1/2</sup>, 26<sup>3</sup>, 27<sup>1/2</sup>, 28<sup>1/2</sup>, 29<sup>3</sup> Bethel.  
Oct. 1<sup>(25)</sup> Cambridge River nearsides, L. Umbagog.
- Cyanocitta cristata. - Sept. 23<sup>1/2</sup>, 25<sup>1/2</sup>, 26<sup>3</sup>, 27<sup>1/2</sup>, 28<sup>1/2</sup>, 29<sup>1/2</sup>. Bethel.
- Sayornis phoebe. - Sept. 27<sup>1</sup> Bethel.
- ✓ Contopus virens. - Oct. 1<sup>1/2</sup> near Lake Umbagog (cf. detailed notes).
- Dryobates villosus. - Sept. 25<sup>1</sup> Bethel.
- Dryobates pubescens. - Sept. 23<sup>1</sup> Bethel.
- Sphyrapicus varius. - Sept. 27<sup>1/2</sup> near Bethel.
- ✓ Colaptes auratus. - Sept. 23<sup>1/2</sup>, 25<sup>1</sup>, 26<sup>1</sup>, 27<sup>(2)</sup>, 28<sup>1</sup>, 29<sup>3</sup> Bethel.  
" 30<sup>(2)(3)</sup> between Bethel & Upton.
- Accipiter cooperii. - Sept. 27<sup>1</sup> Bethel.
- ✓ Circus hudsonius. - Oct. 1<sup>1</sup> Lake Umbagog.
- ✓ Haliaeetus leucorhynchus. - Oct. 1<sup>(2)</sup> Lake Umbagog.
- Bonasa a. togata. - Sept. 27<sup>1</sup> Bethel.

Oxford County, Maine.

1899.

Sept. 22 to Ardea herodias. - Oct. 1<sup>(3)</sup> Cambridge River marshes, Salem University.

Oct. 4

✓ Anas obscura. - Oct. 1<sup>(3)</sup> Salem University.

✓ Pelecanus porphyrio. - Oct. 1<sup>(2)</sup> " "

✓ Megascops americana. - " 1<sup>(2)(7)</sup><sub>(25)</sub> Salem University.



Flying trip to Lake Umbagog.

1899

September 30  
to  
October 2

I left Bethel at noon on the 30<sup>th</sup> and went to Lakeside by Stage arriving at 6 P.M. The day was clear & cold with a strong N.W. wind, the mountains were wholly free from haze and the autumn coloring was on its height & exceptionally brilliant. Several House Wrens, a few Bluebirds & House Finches, large flocks of Robins, Chipping and Titmice and two Red-tailed Hawks were seen during the drive.

I returned to Bethel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> by a private team leaving Lakeside at 8 A.M. and reaching the Exchange shortly after noon. The weather was cloudy & cold with fine pellets of driving hail or hail-like snow falling almost incessantly & rattling on the dry leaves. Two Chickadee Thrushes were seen in Henry.

During both days the country between Henry & Upton, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> that immediately around Lakeside, was alive with White-crowned Sparrows. I must have seen in all upwards of 100, the greatest number on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. They were in small flocks (some of which also contained one or two White-throats or Song Sparrows) and were usually seen in patches of woods or thickets of low bushes by the roadside. More than half of those that I examined closely were adults. Throughout the open country they probably outnumbered any other species of the smaller birds, at least on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, which probably marked the height of the continued migration this year.

White-crowned  
Sparrows  
abundant.

October 1<sup>st</sup> was a bitterly cold day for the season with cloudy sky, a keen N.W. wind and frequent flurries of snow, which melted as soon as it struck the ground on the lower levels but whitened the upper slopes of the mountains from morning to night.

I spent the forenoon up the lake going by

Lake Umbagog.

1899.

October 1

steamer and landing at Melattine Island and Pine Point. During this trip I saw 2 Bald Eagles, 3 Black Ducks and many Sheldrakes. The water was low and Ducks are said to be scarce this autumn.

In the afternoon I picked one of my canoes out to Upper river seeing there Great Blue Herons, a <sup>a Marsh Hawk</sup> Sheldrake, and a flock of about 60 Crows, all along the Cambridge River between its mouth and the hills. Off the mouth of the river I came upon a ♀ a young Surf Scoter which was floating with its head buried among the Kapokia flosses and apparently fast asleep. The canoe was moving at great speed and its prow was not more than six or eight feet from the unconscious bird when the latter happened to raise its head & discovering the danger rose hurriedly & flew out over the Lake.

a downy  
Scoter

The most interesting experience of the afternoon was that of finding a Wood Pewee cowering under the lee of my boat house. Its plumage was ruffled and somewhat bedraggled and the bird acted as if exhausted and discouraged but its eyes glowed brightly and it made occasional sallies into the air among the falling snow-flakes as if mistaking them for flying insects. It spent most of its time on the ground or rather on a pile of chips and pieces of boards where it hopped or flittered from place to place apparently finding & pulling up some kind of food but just what I could not discern. It was so tame that I almost caught it in my hand. Once it alighted on the threshold of the front door & looked in as I thought wisely. It was a young bird & showed the grayish neck mottlings conspicuously.

a belated  
Wood Pewee.

1899.

October

The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> were bitterly cold days for the season with piercing N. W. winds and temperatures well below freezing over the greater part of New England (22° at Concord on the 1<sup>st</sup>, I am told) and flurries of snow in the more northern portions. On the mornings of the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> the surface of the ground was frozen hard (at Concord). The remainder of the month was exceptionally mild with a number of almost uncomfortably warm days and, for the most part, dry, clear weather although heavy rains fell on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> and lighter ones on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. They were insufficient to effect the ponds, streams, wells and springs which remained at a very low ebb but they kept the grass green throughout the month.

Weather.

The autumn coloring reached its height on the 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> when it was more varied & brilliant than I

Autumn

Coloring.

remember to have seen it before, at least in Massachusetts. This was due largely, no doubt, to the fact that the foliage of the oaks and beeches turned this year at the same time as that of the maples, tulipars, chestnuts, elms, cherry, cedar, birches & poplars - something unusual if not quite unprecedented. Nearly all these trees shed their foliage in one forenoon - that of the 14<sup>th</sup> - when I happened to be in the Estabrook woods at Concord. The morning had been cloudy, densely foggy and perfectly calm up to about 10 o'clock when the sky cleared and a brisk N. W. wind arose. In the next hour the falling leaves filled the air as thickly as snow flakes and the surface of the ground was soon covered deeply by them. By noon most of the trees were perfectly bare. Never before have I seen the woods so quickly & completely stripped of their foliage.

Oaks & maples

same time

as some trees

Fall of the

leaves.

Drive from Peterboro to Cambridge.

1899.

October 7-10

Went to Peterboro by rail on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup>. C. joined me at Ayer. We dined at Tucker's Farm and in the afternoon drove to Ben Mear farm where I dug several large holes of Mounds in the pine woods beyond the brook. Heard Cedar Birds & Canada Nuthatches, the former in a run cherry tree by the roadside, the latter in pine woods. Spent the night at Tucker's Farm.

" 8

The next day we drove to Grafton stopping at West Townsend for dinner. The weather was cloudy, calm and rather warm. The most beautiful part of the drive was a stretch of about three miles between Greenville and West Townsend where the road passed through old pine woods filled with mountain Laurel which formed a dense undergrowth and fringed both sides of the roadway with its masses of shining green foliage. Many of the Laurel bushes were six or eight feet tall.

During the day drive we saw at least fifty Bluebirds, 100 Chipping, 6 or 8 Grass Finches, 18 or 20 Yellow-rumps and a few Song Sparrows. No Hawks or other large birds were noted.

" 10

The 9<sup>th</sup> was rainy and we remained at Grafton but the 10<sup>th</sup> was a clear, calm & very warm day and we drove through to Cambridge, dining at Lexington where we started a Secretary Meadow Lark in a field near the hotel.

Between Grafton & Lexington we saw about fifty Bluebirds.

The foliage was brilliant in spots but few trees other than the maples had attained the height of their autumn coloring.

Concord, Massachusetts.

1899.

[Oct. 12-31]

(a)

I went to Concord on the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> and (with the exception of the 26<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> when I was at Cambridge) spent the remainder of the month there staying at the Hedges' and visiting the Ball's Hill region nearly every day, usually going & returning by river. There were fewer strong winds than usual and hence less sailing but as the weather, for the most part, was not only calm but exceptionally soft & beautiful I seized, on the whole, of the opportunities which a few men of the paddle afforded for lingering or even stopping by the way whenever I felt tempted to do so by an especially attractive prospect or by the appearance of some interesting bird or other animal.

Not that these morning & evening trips yielded many very profitable observations. On the contrary they, as well as the days spent in the woods or at the farm, were singularly barren of novel experiences. This was due partly, no doubt, to one of those mysterious runs of ill luck which at times pursue & discourage field observers as well as other visitors but still more largely, I fancy, to the extreme scarcity of the larger birds, especially waders & waterfowl. Actually the only Ducks seen during the month were three Anas of which few past Ball's Hill on the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> and Dippers (Podilymbus podiceps) were so nearly absent that I met with but one - in the reach just below the red bridge on the 16<sup>th</sup>. I saw an adult ♂ Marsh Hawk on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> (probably a different bird on each occasion), an immature Red-tail (in the same place & doubtless the same bird)

Scarcity of  
large birds  
especially of  
waterfowl.

Concord, Massachusetts.

1899.

Oct. 12-31

(6)

on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, an Osprey on the 17<sup>th</sup>, a Cooper's Hawk (at the Barrett farm) on the 24<sup>th</sup>; a Short-eared Owl skimming low over the river marshes in the evening twilight on the 21<sup>st</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>; and a Bittern at "Hunt's Pond" on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Kingfishers were only twice seen - on the 17<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> - and Wilson's Snipe but once - on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> when three birds started from the river bank just below the swimming place and flew over me, scarping. I saw no Yellow-bys nor Sandpipers of any kind.

Large birds

Of the smaller land birds which regularly frequent the river banks ~~at~~ their background of marshes at this season Titlarks, Song Sparrows, Rusty Blackbirds, Crows & Blue jays were somewhat less numerous than usual; Meadows Larks painfully scarce; Yellow-rumps and Swamp Sparrows exceptionally abundant; Juncos, Savanna Sparrows & Fox Sparrows in about the normal numbers; Bluebirds rather more numerous than they have been during the past four years; Robins less common than usual. Neither Crows Blackbirds ~~and~~ Redwings were met with and Cow-birds were seen but once - on the morning of the 23<sup>rd</sup> when I paddled past a flock of 5-6 birds which were collected in the tops of some trees growing on the river bank just above "Hunt's Pond".

Small birds

In the woods or openings between Ball's Hill and the Barrett farm Chickadees and Jays were less numerous than usual. Brown Creepers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Juncos, and Flickers in about their normal numbers; Partridges decidedly scarce. There was a rather heavy flight of House Wrenches (I saw seven on the 21<sup>st</sup> and four on the 23<sup>rd</sup>) and Red-bellied Nuthatches fairly swarmed. Pine Grunts appeared on the 13<sup>th</sup> and were rather common for the

Concord, Massachusetts.

1899.

Oct. 12. 31

(C)

nigh two weeks. Although a dozen or more White-throated Sparrows were present in the garden at Cambridge on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> I met with only a single bird (on the 29<sup>th</sup>) during my stay on Concord.

The scarcity of waders and water-fowl just mentioned was apparently due largely if not wholly to the dryness of the season. There were few spots on the Great Meadows where Sandpipers, Snipes or Greens-Gees could have obtained food and I have always noticed that when the river is as low as it was this autumn the Ducks, Geese & Coots do not visit it in any numbers although one would suppose that the contrary would be the case.

Muskrats were fully up to their normal numbers although few of them built houses, possibly because of the low stage of the water.

The remarkably heavy crop of chestnuts, acorns and hickory nuts was accompanied, as is invariably the case, by a marked increase in the number of Red Squirrels and Chipmunks but Gray Squirrels were less numerous than last year.

At about 7 A. M. on the 25<sup>th</sup> Hansen, a Swede who has been working for me this year, saw a Deer in Holden's meadow. It was standing on the dry ridge not far from the entrance to the path which leads to the cabin. When he started towards it it ran to the edge of the river, leaped a mound as if about to take to the water and then, whirling around, bounded back across the meadow and disappeared in the brush on the E. end of Ball's Hill. Hansen said it had a fine set of horns. Judging by its tracks which I found afterwards on Ball's & Pine Hills it must have been a three-year old.

Scarcity of  
waders &  
water-fowl  
Its probable  
cause.

Muskrat

Heavy crop  
of nuts &  
abundance of  
Squirrels.

A Deer  
seen at  
Ball's Hill.

1899.

Oct. 12-31

(d)

The preceding summary, as well as the notes which follow, was compiled from my field list and pocket diary for I kept no field journal this autumn.

Sialia sialis. - Bluebirds were more numerous about Concord this autumn than they have been at any time within the past five or six years. None was their abundance confined to this one locality for, as already mentioned, I saw upwards of fifty birds while driving from Pelotonia (N.H.) to Boston (Mass.) on the 8<sup>th</sup> and on equal number between Boston & Lexington on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Their numbers remained undiminished at Concord up to the 22<sup>nd</sup> after which I noted the species only on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> getting no November records this year although I was in the field constantly during the first ten days of the latter month.

Abundance of

Bluebirds

On October 13<sup>th</sup> I saw four Bluebirds in company with a number of Robins & Yellow-rumps eating mountain ash berries in the trees at the Kings place. The weather on the time was clear & warm.

Eating berries

of mountain ash

Sitta canadensis. - There was a heavy flight of Canada Nuthatches this autumn. Just where they nested the Concord region I do not know but they were abundant there during the whole of my stay. I saw them in orchards & about houses on several occasions but oftener & in the greatest numbers in fields & white pine woods where more than a find together although they frequently associated with Chickadees, Kinglets and Brown creepers. I repeatedly observed them extracting seeds from hemlock cones and carrying them to the tunnels of rough-barked deciduous trees where they tampered them firmly into cracks & crevices rarely depositing more than a single seed in any one place.



Concord, Massachusetts.

1899.

Dec. 12-21

[2]

Anthus ludovicianus. - Larks were decidedly less numerous than usual owing, no doubt, to the fact that the river meadows were by far the best to afford them suitable feeding or roosting grounds. On the 17<sup>th</sup> I saw five birds perching among the branches of a small leafless elm in company with a number of Governor Sparrows. The two stands on the river bank (on "Hunt's Pond") & I passed in my canoe within a few yards of it getting a positively certain identification of the Larks. They sat rather erect and appeared quite at their ease although they did not wag their tails or walk along the branches. I do not recall one being this species alight in a tree before although I have known it to do so on a fence or the top of a barn building.

Perching in  
the branches  
of an elm.

Asio accipitrinus. - The Short-eared Owl seen on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup> was beating the meadows in the twilight much as the Marsh Hawk does by day, skimming just above the tops of the taller grasses, moving rather slowly but with infinite ease & grace, now gliding in a nearly straight line for fifty or sixty yards on level, outstretched wings, next beating its wings quickly a few times to renew its impetus, frequently inclining slightly to left or right and occasionally mounting upwards for a few feet or turning abruptly to quarters back over the lower ground. As it was passing within about one hundred yards across the river at the head of the "Hole" I squealed like a woman when it wheeled suddenly & flew straight towards me coming within ten or fifteen paces before it disappeared in the darkness.

The other bird, noted on the 25<sup>th</sup>, may have been

1899.

Oct. 12-31

(f)

a Long-eared Owl for although it started from a tree (one of the maples on the river bank just below Platts' bridge) very near at hand and flew directly over me within a few yards it was nearly dark at the time & I could make out little more than the bird's general size & shape as its shadowy form was outlined for an instant against the sky.

Bubo virginianus. - On the 29<sup>th</sup> I found the remains of a freshly-killed Crow under a large pine on the western edge of Davis's Swamp. The head, wings and legs were intact and attached to the skeleton of the body from which practically every morsel of flesh had been removed. The ground close around the carcass was white with the chelly excrement of some bird of prey and a pellet of the very largest size showed beyond question that the murder had been committed by a Great Horned Owl. One fact especially interested & to some degree puzzled me, viz. that the pellet, which lay within less than a yard of the remains, was composed entirely of the feathers & bones of a Crow. It seems hardly possible that the pellet could have been found & ejected within less than two or three hours after the Owl had finished his meal but he may have passed the intestine sitting on the ground by the remains of his victim or he may have returned for a second feast; or still again the feathers & bones comprising the pellet may have belonged to another Crow. The bird which I found was probably caught while roosting in the pine under which it lay but I could discover no real evidence that such had been the case.

Boneard, Mass.

1899.

October

*Pipilo fuscus* <sup>Sept. 10 to Oct. 10</sup> 8<sup>20</sup> 10<sup>20</sup> 12<sup>10</sup> 13<sup>20</sup> 14<sup>10</sup> 15<sup>10</sup> 16<sup>8</sup> 17<sup>15</sup> 18, 19, 21<sup>12</sup> 22<sup>20</sup> 23<sup>8</sup> 24<sup>10</sup> 26<sup>10</sup>.

*T. fuscus* 21<sup>10</sup> 23<sup>10</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>20</sup> 30<sup>1</sup>

*Merula* 12<sup>8</sup> 13<sup>20</sup> 14<sup>10</sup> 16<sup>8</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 18, 19, 21<sup>12</sup> 22<sup>20</sup> 23<sup>12</sup> 24<sup>20</sup> 27<sup>10</sup>

*Harporhynchus* 10<sup>1</sup>

*Certhia* 12<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>2</sup> 24<sup>2</sup>

*Sitta carolin.* 12<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup>

*" canadensis* 12<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 15<sup>10</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup>

*Regulus sat.* 23<sup>10</sup> 24<sup>10</sup> 25<sup>10</sup> 29<sup>10</sup>

*" calendula* 13<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>10</sup>

*Parus at.* 12<sup>1</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>10</sup> 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29<sup>10</sup>

*Anthus* 13<sup>10</sup> 15<sup>10</sup> 16<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>8</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>10</sup> 24<sup>10</sup> 26<sup>10</sup> 29<sup>10</sup>

*Corvus* 12<sup>10</sup> 22<sup>10</sup>

*Poocatus* 13<sup>1</sup>

*Mel. melodia* 10<sup>20</sup> 12<sup>10</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup>

*Zon. albicollis* 29<sup>1</sup>

*Mel. georgiana* 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 18<sup>20</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup>

*Sceloporus* 12<sup>10</sup> 13<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup>

*Corvus* 12<sup>10</sup> 13<sup>10</sup> 14<sup>10</sup> 16<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 18, 20, 21<sup>20</sup> 22, 23, 24<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>1</sup>

*Carpodacus* 12<sup>10</sup> 13<sup>10</sup> 14<sup>10</sup> 16<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 18<sup>10</sup> 19, 21<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>1</sup>

*Dryobates vil.* 15<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>1</sup>

*" fuscus* 13<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 19<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup>

*Colaptes* 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 26<sup>1</sup>

*Stimula* 12<sup>10</sup> 15<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>10</sup> 22<sup>10</sup> 23<sup>10</sup>

*Megascops* 13<sup>10</sup>

*Bonasa* 13<sup>1</sup> 14<sup>1</sup> 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>1</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup> 29<sup>1</sup> 30<sup>1</sup>

*Dend. coronata* 12<sup>10</sup> 13<sup>10</sup> 14<sup>10</sup> 15<sup>10</sup> 16<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 18, 19<sup>20</sup> 21<sup>1</sup> 22<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>10</sup> 26<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup>

*" atrata* 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>1</sup> 18<sup>1</sup> 23<sup>1</sup>

*Passerculus* 16<sup>1</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 23<sup>10</sup> 24<sup>10</sup> 26<sup>1</sup>

*Junco* 16<sup>10</sup> 17<sup>10</sup> 18<sup>10</sup> 19<sup>10</sup> 21<sup>10</sup> 23<sup>1</sup> 24<sup>10</sup> 25<sup>1</sup> 27<sup>1</sup> 28<sup>1</sup>

1899.

October

Circus hua ✓ 16<sup>ad</sup>. 24<sup>ad</sup> 29<sup>ad</sup>. <sup>Adult male</sup>

Gallinago ✓ 16<sup>ad</sup> <sup>Swamp</sup> <sup>at Haverhill</sup>

Podilymbus ✓ 16<sup>ad</sup> <sup>Swamp</sup> <sup>at Haverhill</sup>

Pandion ✓ 17<sup>ad</sup>

Ceryle ✓ 17<sup>ad</sup> 21<sup>ad</sup>

Spizella tristis ✓ 13<sup>ad</sup>

" pinus ✓ 13<sup>ad</sup>. 17<sup>ad</sup>. 21<sup>ad</sup>. 22<sup>ad</sup>. 23<sup>ad</sup> <sup>Swamp</sup> <sup>at Haverhill</sup> 24<sup>ad</sup>

Anas obtusa ✓ 21<sup>ad</sup> <sup>Swamp</sup> <sup>at Haverhill</sup>

Orio acaip ✓ 21<sup>ad</sup> 25<sup>ad</sup> <sup>Swamp</sup> <sup>at Haverhill</sup>

Buteo borealis ✓ 19<sup>ad</sup> 21<sup>ad</sup> 23<sup>ad</sup>

Bolaurus ✓ 19<sup>ad</sup>

Ceryle ✓ 19<sup>ad</sup> 21<sup>ad</sup>

Spiz. monticola ✓ 19<sup>ad</sup> 21<sup>ad</sup> 23<sup>ad</sup> 24<sup>ad</sup> <sup>(10)</sup> <sup>(15)</sup> 25<sup>ad</sup> 29<sup>ad</sup>

Melospiza ✓ 23<sup>ad</sup> <sup>Swamp</sup> <sup>at Haverhill</sup>

Geopelia corymb ✓ 24<sup>ad</sup> <sup>Swamp</sup> <sup>at Haverhill</sup>

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

October.

The following is a full list of all the birds, individuals as well as species, which were seen within the confines of our home place at Cambridge. Most of the observations were made by Walter Deane who was at the Museum daily (excepting on Sundays) throughout the month, the few notes which were made by me during brief visits on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> being signed by my initials. Birds seen or heard in our garden.

Sialia sialis. - The flight call of a passing bird heard by me on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> - for the first time in this immediate locality for very many years. - (W. B.)

Merula migratoria. - Two birds present on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, a single bird on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Turdus swainsoni. - One on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

" palmarum. - A very common bird on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Parus atricapillus. 5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup>.

Sitta carolinensis. - One heard on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

" canadensis. - One seen by me on the 27<sup>th</sup>. (W. B.)

Certhia f. americana. One seen by me on the 11<sup>th</sup>. (W. B.)

Dendroica coronata. - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> W. B. 27<sup>th</sup> W. B.

" striata. - Two seen on the 5<sup>th</sup> (W. B.) & Deane on the 16<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

October

Spinus tristis. - Five present on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, one seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. Call note heard on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Birds seen  
or heard in  
our garden.

Junco hyemalis. - One heard by me on the 5<sup>th</sup> W.B.

Zonotrichia albicollis. - For several years past I have cultivated a rather large patch of prince's feather (Polygonum orientale). The seeds of this plant ripen in October and attract many kinds of birds as well as, unfortunately, rats & mice. The White-throats are exceedingly fond of these seeds and during the present month from one or two to a dozen birds might be found daily feasting on them in company with the still more numerous House Sparrows. The male White-throats sang rather freely & at all hours but usually in subdued and somewhat broken tones. Mr. Dennis lists of their varying numbers is as follows:  
5-2 10<sup>th</sup>. 11<sup>th</sup> (W.B.) 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>. 16<sup>th</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>. 19<sup>th</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup>. 29<sup>th</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup>. 31<sup>st</sup>

Corvus americanus. - 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>. 23<sup>rd</sup>. 24<sup>th</sup>. 25<sup>th</sup>. 27<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 29<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup>.

Cyanocitta cristata. - Heard screaming on the 12<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup>,  
19<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

Sphyrapicus varius. - One seen by me on the 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> (W.B.) and one by W. Deane on the 13<sup>th</sup>, probably the same bird on each occasion. I cannot recall noting this species in our garden before for over thirty years. The bird which visited us this autumn spent most of his time in the large apple trees and did not, so far as I could discern, sink any of his soft waxes in my birches or mountain ashes.

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

1899.

October

Colaptes auratus hirtus. - Flickers were seen or heard in the garden on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. On the last two occasions a pair appeared and visited the box which contained the nest last spring both birds alighting on it at the same time uttering the low whick-er note and putting their heads into the hole but not entering it.

Birds seen  
or heard in  
our garden.

1899.

November

This was a rarely beautiful, warm, scarce colder than October with very many clear, mild, windless days and but one real storm which came on the 11<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 10 a.m. with damp snow ~~which~~ clinging to the trees and whitened the ground until it was washed away by the heavy rain that came during the afternoon & evening. On the 12<sup>th</sup> a light snowfall was again recorded but the weather was not but with some clearing it was in fact, and wholly free from frost save in the early mornings when the surface was frequently stiffened, while the grass on city lawns and highly cultivated fields continued as fresh and green as it had been in October.

Weather

In view of these conditions it is an interesting fact that most of the autumn birds which regularly go further south for the winter departed at rather earlier dates than usual and that there was a considerable flight of irregular winter visitors from the far north. Immense numbers of White-winged Crossbills and a good many Redpolls appeared early in the month, a very few Pine Grosbeaks towards its close. Small numbers of Goshawks & Sawey Owls were also reported. Red-bellied Nuthatches continued abundant but Pine Buntings apparently departed before the 15<sup>th</sup>. Brown creepers, <sup>10-12</sup> - crested Kinglets, White-bellied Nuthatches and Tree Sparrows were in about the normal numbers, Chickadees rather less common than usual, Fox Sparrows and Shrikes so scarce that I saw only one bird of each species. Practically all the Red Crossbills disappeared before the close of October and the flight of North-bound Juncos passed before the middle of November. The death of birds of prey & water-fowl continued through the latter months.

Birds.



Concord, Mass.

1899.

Nov. 1-11  
(24, 21, 23  
+ 26)  
a

I was at Concord during this period living in the cabin at Ball's Hill spending much of my time in the woods and usually walking to & from the farm daily. After returning to Cambridge I visited Concord (for the day nearly) on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The following observations made there on the only ones which merit detailed notice:—

Parus atricapillus.— Chickadees were comparatively scarce in my woods this autumn and the flocks met with were unusually small most of them containing only from four to six birds each although two flocks of eight or ten birds each were seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> and one of eight on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Pinicola canadensis.— On the 23<sup>rd</sup> I heard a Pine Grosbeak at the Ball's farm. It was evidently flying for whom I whistled an imitation of its call it approached and circled about me apparently coming very close at one time although I did not succeed in getting a sight at it. Early in December (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> I think) Mr. Higgins met with a small flock of Pine Grosbeaks at Cohasset & shot two or three of them.

Alcedo virens.— On the 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> I heard the flight calls of Redpolls at Ball's Hill, on each occasion in the early morning. On the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> a flock of four birds alighted near me for a moment in the top of a gray birch. As none of our other local observers met with this species during the present autumn I conclude that the flight which I noted at Concord must have been near-synchronous & of short duration. (Four or five Redpolls were seen Jan'y 21, 1900 at Sparrow Mass. by Dr. C. W. Townsend & Dr. J. S. Woodhouse. They show one which proved to be typical viridis.)

Concord, Mass.

1899.

Nov. 1-11

(also 21, 23

& 26)

(6)

Spinus pinus. - The unmistakable flight call of this species was heard almost daily from October 13<sup>th</sup> to November 11<sup>th</sup>, usually in the early morning. Judging by the number of my calls alone (I did not ever see any of the birds) the birds were moving about over the country singly or in small parties but on October 23<sup>rd</sup> I heard the confused clamor of what must have been an exceptionally large flock.

Loxia leucoptera. - I have never before known these Crossbills to be anything like so numerous in any part of Massachusetts as they were at Concord during the previous months. They appeared there on the 6<sup>th</sup> when I saw two flocks, one containing two, the other about thirty birds. After this I saw or heard them every morning when the weather was favorable and often at short intervals during the entire day although they seemed to be most active & noisy & have most conspicuous - at about sunrise or shortly afterwards when flocks containing from fifteen to thirty birds each were almost continually passing or re-passing over Ball's Hill. Whether I saw on such occasions a dozen or fifteen different flocks or the same flock a dozen or fifteen times it was impossible to tell but although I usually kept within safe bounds by noting only one or two flocks in my field list at the end of each day I have little doubt that the wooded region lying between Ball's Hill and the Barrett farm was visited daily between Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> by at least six or eight different flocks of White-winged Crossbills containing in the aggregate over one hundred birds.

On several occasions at Ball's Hill and once in the

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(5)

(*Loxia luecophrys*) Barren woods I saw a flock alight for a moment, always in the tops of pitch pines. These trees had few cones this year but the white pines were loaded with green cones which, however, did not appear to attract the Crossbills. What these birds found to eat in the Concord woods I was unable to ascertain but in the region about Cambridge (where they were present in considerable but by no means unprecedented numbers during <sup>most of</sup> November & the first half of December) they fed chiefly on the seeds of the Norway Spruces which bore an abundant crop of ripe cones. The hemlocks also fruited heavily and the Crossbills were seen eating their seeds on several occasions.

I learned nothing new about the habits of these Crossbills. Indeed their restless & erratic movements made it practically impossible to study them as well closely. As far as I was able to ascertain they were never accompanied by Red Crossbills nor did they appear to associate with any other species of birds. I heard them utter only the regular flight notes but Mr. Glover Allen tells me that during the past summer (in August, I think it was) when he found them very numerous on the upper slopes of some of the White Mountains the males were singing freely.

*Lanius borealis*.—Shrikes were apparently as scarce this autumn as they were last year. I saw only one during the present winter, a brownish-colored bird, near the West Bedford Station, on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

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(d)

Passercula iliaca. - A solitary Fox Sparrow, scratching among the leaves in a thicket of alders behind Ball's Hill on the 11<sup>th</sup>, was the only bird noted by me at Concord.

The migration last spring was also very light and I have ~~not~~ <sup>heard</sup> ~~heard~~ <sup>heard</sup> that the number of birds breeding in Newfouland was sadly reduced the past summer. All these indications show the species must have suffered very heavily in the South last winter (G. Wayne's notes on the destruction by cold & snow which he witnessed at Charleston S. C. & Condé XVI, pp 197/8).

Scolecophagus caeruleus. - A solitary bird in the meadows on the river bank opposite Paul Island, on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup>. It was uttering the melody of jingling notes which seems to represent the song. This is the ~~only~~ <sup>third</sup> instance of the occurrence of the species in November which I have noted at Concord.

Branta canadensis. - A flock of 21 birds which passed over Ball's Hill rather low down during the snow storm on the forenoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> was the only instance of occurrence which came under my observation this autumn but Mrs. Edward W. Emerson writes me that she, her husband, and their two sons saw a flock of fully 100 birds rise from the wooded reach of the Assabet River directly in front of their house on the morning of December 23<sup>rd</sup> & mounting high in all pass on snow-covered. The boys thought that the birds had spent the night either in the river or in one of the ponds near its banks. The Geese made a great clamor as they flew off.

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(2)

Clangula americana. — Two whistles which flew past Ball's Hill just before the beginning of the snow storm on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> were the only Dippers of any kind that I saw or heard of during November.

Accipiter cooperii. — On the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup> I was standing under an oak in the Barrett woods when I heard a Downy Woodpecker calling chick, chick rapidly & excitedly. Presently the bird came in sight "galloping" through the tree tops with a Cooper's Hawk in hot pursuit but forty yards or more behind. The Hawk gained rapidly on the slow-flying Woodpecker of course, <sup>but</sup> discovering me when nearly overhead doubled sharply and turned back.

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*Turdus palmeri* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> <sup>(Gibbs)</sup>

*Mimus* ✓ <sup>Sticks 2.7.</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> <sup>Back 76</sup>

*Catharus* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>(3)</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Sitta carol.* ✓ <sup>Large from 2.11.</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>

✓ *canadensis* 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>(4)</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Parus atr.* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> <sup>(3)</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> <sup>2 from 1.3 to 10</sup> 23<sup>(1)</sup> <sup>case.</sup>

*Regulus sat.* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Corvus* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>(4)</sup> 3<sup>(10)</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>(10)</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> <sup>small</sup>

*Cyanocitta* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>(3)</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Dryobates pub.* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>

*Colaptes* ✓ <sup>1.7</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> <sup>B. B. 4.</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>

*Bonasa* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>(3)</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Junco* ✓ 1<sup>(4)</sup> 2<sup>(10)</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>(10)</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>(10)</sup>

*Spizella mont.* ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> <sup>1.11</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> <sup>small</sup>

*Otocorys alba.* ✓ <sup>Back 74.</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Dryobates vire.* ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup>

*Buteo borealis* ✓ <sup>Back 74.</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Accipiter cooperii* ✓ <sup>Back 74.</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Spinus pinus* ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>

" *trichas* ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>(4)</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Loxia leucoptera* ✓ <sup>2.11</sup> 2<sup>(10)</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> <sup>small</sup>

*Acanthis lincoln.* ✓ <sup>1.11</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup> 7<sup>(4)</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>

*Parus car.* ✓ <sup>1.11</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup>

*Sceloporus phryg.* ✓ 9<sup>th</sup>

*Passerella iliaca* ✓ 11<sup>th</sup>

*Arremonops canadensis* ✓ <sup>1.11</sup> 11<sup>(10)</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup>

*Chondestes am.* ✓ <sup>1.11</sup> 11<sup>(10)</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup>

*Pinicola canadensis* ✓ <sup>1.11</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> <sup>Back 74.</sup>

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November

Shortly after leaving Concord I went to Philadelphia for a week returning to Cambridge for the winter on the 18<sup>th</sup>. After this I spent most of my time in the Museum but I took a number of drives in the early mornings, usually around Fresh Pond which was frequented by an unusual number of water-fowl this autumn. I also visited Wellesley College on the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup>. Walter Dean, who was at his desk during the entire winter, kept a close daily watch on the garden. The results of our combined observations are as follows:-

Merula migratoria. - One spent the 24<sup>th</sup> in the garden visiting the Porter's apple tree but was, so far as we observed, attacking its abundant fruit. Another was seen by W. D. in the Observatory grounds on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Parus atricapillus. - Heard in the garden on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> and five birds seen together there on the 22<sup>nd</sup> when one of them gave the flicker call a few times. I also saw a flock of 8 birds feeding on the buds of the Norway Spruce in the Wellesley College grounds on the 25<sup>th</sup> and W. Dean found a flock of 10 in the Botanic Gardens (Cambridge) on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Regulus satrapa. - Four together in the Wellesley College grounds on the 25<sup>th</sup>, two in our garden on the 27<sup>th</sup> and two in Harvard Park on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Certhia f. americana. - One in the garden on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sitta carolinensis. - Two in the Wellesley College grounds on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

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Sitta canadensis. Two in our garden on the 19<sup>th</sup> and two feeding on seeds of the Norway Spruce or Helderberg Cedar on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Amphelis cedrorum. - During the heavy rain storm of the 11<sup>th</sup> a flock of 12 Cedar Birds visited the garden spending some time sitting in the top of our large apple tree near the house. (W. Deane)

Loxia c. minor. On the morning of the 20<sup>th</sup> as I was walking in the garden I heard the flight calls of Red. Crossbills and looking up saw a flock of 15 birds passing overhead, low down, towards the W.

Loxia leucoptera. - On the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> I found 5 of these Crossbills feeding on the seeds of a Norway Spruce in the Wellerburg Cedar grounds. One bird was a sooty-red male; all the others being either females or young males in yellowish-green plumage. The flock worked busily & for the most part steadily each bird clinging to the upper end of a cone and bending forward and downward as to pick out the scales which contained the seeds.

On the 30<sup>th</sup>. I heard the flight call of White-winged Crossbills near Papan Pond & on the 29<sup>th</sup> at Fresh Pond Cove where Papan also saw some birds on the 25<sup>th</sup> in the above cedar hedge along the driveway.  
Spirurus tristis. - Heard by W. Deane in the garden on the 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>.

Plectrophenax nivalis. As I was driving around the western side of Fresh Pond on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> a flock of 14 Snow Buntings came flying in over the water & alighted on the lip-raft stone pavement on the shore.



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Spizella monticola. - On the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> I distinctly heard the thin, feeble chirp of a tree sparrow coming from a thicket of shrubs in the garden but I was unable to get a sight at the birds.

Junco hyemalis. - A solitary ♀ seen at Poynton Park on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Zonotrichia albicollis. - Two seen (one of them "sang quite well") on the 1<sup>st</sup> and one heard chirping on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and again on the 7<sup>th</sup> - all by W. Deane in our garden.

Passerella iliaca. - One seen in the garden on the 28<sup>th</sup> by W. Deane.

Corvus americanus. - From one to four birds visited the garden every two or three days through the month alighting either in the apple trees or lindens. They have become so tame during the last two or three years that I am often able to walk or stand directly beneath them when they are perched in the tops or upper branches of the trees.

I also saw a few crows about Fresh Pond during each of my visits this month and on several occasions they allowed me to draw past them within fifteen or twenty yards.

Cyanocitta cristata. - Two seen in the garden on the 11<sup>th</sup> & one heard on the 21. W. Deane. I saw three together in Poynton Park on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dryobates p. medius. - Two birds seen together in the garden on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, a single bird on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>.

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Colaptes auratus hirtus. - One seen in the garden on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, another on Payson Park on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Falco columbarius. - On the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> as I was driving around Fresh Pond a ♀ Peregrine Hawk started from the oak & beech woods on the south shore, crossed the pond to the hemlock grove, and then turned back coming almost directly over me & flying with great brightness.

Anas obscura. - Black Ducks have been constantly present in Fresh Pond during the entire autumn & in numbers considerably greater, on the average, than in any previous year within my recollection. My November counts were as follows: 20<sup>100</sup>, 25<sup>100</sup>, 28<sup>140</sup>, 29<sup>150</sup>, 30<sup>160</sup>. (Detailed notes on habits etc. will be found on a following page under date of Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.)

Anas boschas. - I think I saw one adult ♂ in the Pond on the 24<sup>th</sup> & again on the 28<sup>th</sup>. But it was so far away that I could not learn here of its identity. No such doubt is attached to a male in full plumage (~~which was~~ probably the same bird seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>) which I watched for an hour or two on the 29<sup>th</sup> & identified beyond any question. (See notes under the date last given). This was the first ♂ Mallard in perfectly mature plumage that I have ever seen living. At a distance its head looked black and its back very light grayish giving it a general resemblance to a Scaup. In view of this fact it is not impossible that two Ducks which were swimming near the middle of the Pond on the 20<sup>th</sup> and which I took at the time to be Scaups were really, as Boettger, who was with me, insisted, Mallard Males.

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Lophodytes cucullatus. — On the afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup> I had a good view through my glass of a ♀ that was basking in the Pond in the midst of a great raft of Black Ducks.

Sarus a. smithsonianus. — Whenever the weather was calm & rather mild Hairy Grees resorted to Fresh Pond in greater numbers than I have ever seen them before, but few or none alighted there on cold, windy days. They came to the Pond from the eastward as well as southward and usually at a great height, not all together but in a straggling flight or procession which lasted for an hour or two in the evening when they were almost constantly in sight over our garden. If the wind rose during the day most of them at once flitted back but if the weather remained calm the return flight would not begin much before sunset. Lottesp. tells me that none of them ever remain in the Pond over night. My counts were as follows: 25-<sup>15</sup>, 28<sup>400</sup>, 29<sup>770</sup>, 30<sup>240</sup>.

Sarus glaucus. — One seen in Fresh Pond on the 29<sup>th</sup> (of course not under this date).

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1899.

Nov. 29

Clear, mild, mazy calm up to 9 a.m., a fresh W. wind during the remainder of the forenoon. Afternoon heavy & calm.

Spent most of the forenoon at Fresh Pond watching the water fowl assembled there. Gulls and Ducks intermingled covered an area of at least twenty acres. W. Deane counted 770 Gulls and 150 Ducks. A few Gulls were coming in from train to train at 9 a.m. and at about 11 a.m., when the west wind started and began to ruffle the pond, at least one third of the Gulls rose high in air and departed in the direction of Boston. One count was probably made at about the time when the birds were present in the greatest numbers.

At least eighty per cent of the Gulls were old birds (a sad commentary on the results of the last breeding season). I scrutinized nearly every one of them carefully with my double telescope and, as far as I could make out, all but one were Herring Gulls. The exception was a Larus glaucus in the "hutchinsoni" plumage, i.e. wholly white without trace of blue in the mouth or of mottling anywhere. I could see this distinctly with the glass for the bird was not far away and in a good light. I could also see that its bill was larger than that of the Herring Gulls which were swimming near and flesh-colored with a dark band near the tip. The bird spent most of the time during which I watched it in sleeping although it also preened its feathers once or twice.

Many of the Herring Gulls also kept by flocks but the majority were mostly about or "soda at anchor"

Water-fowl  
in Fresh Pond

Herring Gulls

Glaucous Gull

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breasting the wind and rising and falling with the waves after the wind had lashed the pond. Over them was a sudden and to me quite unexpected alarm when the leader of the flock started and circled about a few times before alighting but with this exception the Gulls remained very quiet during the time I was watching them. As far as I could make out they were not getting or even looking for food which in the water and none of them flew about in search of it although they used to do so years ago when there were albatrosses in Fresh Pond. I saw a young bird do a very singular thing. It rolled over squarely on its back in the water and floated thus for half-a-minute or more paddling the air with its feet precisely after the manner of a diving duck that has fallen or turned over on its back in the water. This performance was repeated several times.

I also repeatedly saw Herring Gulls start and fly for a few rods and then suddenly pitch down on their sides with flapping extended wings making the water fly as they struck the surface and sometimes making nearly out of sight. Occasionally several would do this in quick succession one following the other.

Lotthrop tells me that there are never many Gulls in the pond when the weather is cold and blowing and that the crows and rakes under the logs the greater the number assembled there. This is confirmed by my own observations in this & former years. We have both noticed also that all the Gulls leave the pond before dark each night.

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(no 3)

The Ducks with a single exception were all Black Ducks. Black Ducks  
They have been harrying the pond constantly, I am told, in these ponds since early in October. but their numbers have increased of late and they are gradually getting bolder and approaching the shores more. On the 24<sup>th</sup> I saw a dozen or more within gunshot of the shore off the hemlock grove and yesterday others had walked in equally near the Indian House. This morning they were further out and scattered everywhere among the hills although not at all wary for in places there were single birds or pairs only while in others fifteen or twenty were collected in a dense bunch. They were very active and noisy at times swimming rapidly to & fro and quacking loudly but they did not seem to be feeding. Sometimes two birds would meet and go through a curious performance nodding their heads up and down either together or alternately as if balancing one another, keeping their up for a minute or more. Again a single bird would swim very rapidly for yards with its head and neck ~~stretched~~ <sup>flat</sup> out on the water and its body deeply immersed looking like a dark line drawn on the surface. Of course there was much plunging, feather-pulling and thrashing of the water and not infrequently several birds would plunge their heads and necks beneath the surface and raising them suddenly scatter a shower of drops over their backs as they broke the water with their wings. Once six or eight birds rose and flew up to windward diving from on wing in rapid succession & not only disappearing beneath the surface but remaining under in some instances for nearly half-a-minute then rising on wing & diving again more from a greater height than first or by first.

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Nov. 29  
(No 4)

In company with the Black Ducks in Fresh Pond <sup>mallard ducks</sup> this morning was a ♂ Mallard in fully adult <sup>in Fresh Pond.</sup> plumage. Though the glass had only risen out his shing from head and close yellow bill but to the mallard eye his head looked black for he was out no time worse in than this a few hundred yards. Although I watched him for a long time I noticed nothing of particular interest connected with his carriage or behavior which, indeed, seemed to me to be in every way essentially the same as those of the Black Ducks by which he was usually surrounded.

Besides the water fowl I saw at Fresh Pond a few Crows and hawks, at the huckle grow, a flock of White-winged Crossbills which were apparently <sup>White winged</sup> <sup>Crossbills.</sup> flying. On the 25<sup>th</sup> Mr. Foxon found down Crossbills of this species feeding in aspen vider than along the driveway from Crows to the grow.

In the clayey bank that fronts the pond near the <sup>Kingfisher's</sup> <sup>nest at</sup> <sup>Fresh Pond.</sup> extremity of the huckle grow I noticed, this morning, a Kingfisher's hole & Walter Deann tells me that he saw a Kingfisher enter it repeatedly with food for its young sometime last summer.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899.

Nov. 30

Calm and mild thin clouds obscuring the sky and  
at times blotting out the sun.

When I visited Fresh Pond at nine o'clock this morning  
I found an imposing array of water-fowl floating on its  
glassy surface. They covered, indeed, more than half of the  
main part of the pond exclusive of the coves and in places  
were crowded closely together. A dense haze and the absence  
of sunlight made it difficult to identify them even with  
the aid of a glass and I could not in the cases of the  
more distant birds always distinguish between the the Ducks  
and the dark coloured young Gulls, much less attempt to  
determine the species of Duck or Gull to which the different  
individuals belonged. But it is ~~possible~~ safe to assume, I cannot  
think positively are the Ducks were A. americana and the Gulls  
L. a. sinuatus. Of the former there were certainly upwards  
of 150 present. ~~The~~ Gulls seemed to me to be more numerous  
than they were yesterday but Walter Dean was able to count  
only when he visited the pond at 11 a.m. to-day.

Both Ducks and Gulls were comparatively quiet and inactive  
to-day, the former floating motionless like many wooden chips,  
the latter moving slowly about in a stately, bear-like manner.  
On the western side of the pond some of the birds were within  
100 yards of the shore but elsewhere the outer edges of the  
flock or bed were three times that distance from the land.

Waterfowl  
in Fresh Pond.



1899.

December

A remarkably mild and pleasant month with no snow whatever and the city lawns fresh and green nearly or quite up to the 25<sup>th</sup>. During rather more than half the days the thermometer was <sup>constantly</sup> above the freezing point and it rose to 61° on the 12<sup>th</sup> & to 54° on the 13<sup>th</sup> while it did not fall below 20° until the 29<sup>th</sup> when it went to 16°. On the 30<sup>th</sup> it fell to 14° and on the 31<sup>st</sup> to 6°.

Weather.

I was closely confined most of the time but I visited Fresh Pond repeatedly in the early forenoon and on the 27<sup>th</sup> went to Concord for the day driving through the Eastbrook road and making a big call at the Barrett farm.

My personal movements.

White-winged Crossbills in considerable numbers, Red Crossbills & Canada Warblers in smaller numbers and a few Pine Finches were reported by the younger men who were frequently asked and Mr. H. B. Bigelow met with a flock of 5 Pine Grosbeaks at Cohasset on the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Winter Birds

Fresh Pond was partly skinned over for the first time on the 17<sup>th</sup>, opened the next day and closed wholly & for the winter on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Up to the date last mentioned its waters were constantly enlivened by the presence of great numbers of Black Ducks among which were usually two or three Mallards, on several occasions two male Pintails and from one to two or three Whesters, while over them was a Green-winged Teal. I think that Gossage also saw two or three Hooded Mergansers on one occasion but he has not yet given me a copy of his notes.

Water-fowl in Fresh Pond

Ducks.

Herring Gulls visited the pond last often & in smaller numbers than during November but still it was by no means unusual to find from 15 or 20 to 200 or 300 of them there in the forenoon when the weather was calm & mild, and on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> I counted the very unusual number of 860 among which were two Black-backed Gulls in adult plumage.

Gulls.

1899.

December

My personal observations, as well as those made by Mr. Walter Deane, may be summarized as follows:

Merula migratoria. - Two solitary birds, one seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> in a grass yard a little to the south-west of Fresh Pond, the other the following day at Arlington Heights, both among real cedars. The bird seen on the 10<sup>th</sup> was a male in exceptionally fine plumage.

Regulus satrapa. - Two birds in our garden on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, one on the 8<sup>th</sup> (2) and 19<sup>th</sup>.

Certhia familiaris americana. - One in our garden on the 7<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> sometimes alone but usually in company with Chickadees or Kinglets.

Parus atricapillus. - Visited the garden frequently - on the average about once in every three days. Six birds came together on the 17<sup>th</sup>, four or five on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> but usually there were only one or two. They first attacked the feed on the 14<sup>th</sup> although it was put up in November.

Sitta carolinensis. - One seen in the garden on the 6<sup>th</sup> & either the same or another on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I also noticed one in the trees above William Reed's house on Appleton Street on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ampelis cedrorum. - Two Cedar Birds appeared at a mountain ash tree in the Dodges' place on Sparks St. on the 7<sup>th</sup>. After this they were seen there daily up to the 17<sup>th</sup>. Their numbers varied but seldom exceeded five although nine were present on the 14<sup>th</sup> & fourteen on the 17<sup>th</sup> - George Deane. Fifteen birds, visited our garden on the 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> on the 17<sup>th</sup> eating berries of Prunella spp., Amelanchier & Prunella sp.

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Loxia leucoptera. - On the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> I heard the flight-call of this species as I was working in the garden on which the bird or birds were apparently passing. At about the same time Walter Dean saw a flock of 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in a <sup>White pine</sup> ~~deciduous~~ <sup>tree</sup> on the Lawrence place, Heath Street. Other flocks were reported in the neighborhood of Cambridge but the consensus of opinion seems to be that the species was less numerously represented here this winter than last. (A flock of from 50 to 100 was seen in W. Roxbury <sup>on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup></sup> by Dr. A. S. Reagh.)

Spinus pinus. - Heard one calling over the garden on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Spizella monticola. - A single bird in company with English Sparrows among weeds behind the Cambridge Hospital on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Troglodytes albicollis. - No White-Throats were seen in the garden this winter and I doubt if any are passing. This winter in our neighborhood but I found one creeping in the deep, brush-grown hollow below the green yard to the S. W. of Fresh Pond on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Corvus americanus. - Crows visited our place every few days frequently alighting in the lindens and answering the cawing of my pet Raven, sometimes descending to perches only a few yards above the pen in which the latter is confined. The number of Crows seen at one time varied from one to four.

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Dryotates pubescens. — Seen in the garden on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>; a single bird on each occasion.

As it always proved to be a ♂ when closely examined I am inclined to think that it was always the same individual. Last winter we had three different birds here. The one seen this month did not attack the last until the 27<sup>th</sup>. I found a Downy Woodpecker in the huckleberry at Fresh Pond on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

Colaptes auratus. — Flickers were noted in the garden only three this month on the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> a single bird being seen or heard on each occasion. I met with them several times in the region about Fresh Pond & beyond.

Anas obscura. — Constantly present by day in Fresh Pond up to the time its harbor was completely closed by ice (the night of the 28<sup>th</sup>) in numbers usually exceeding 100 & sometimes reaching 150 to 160. They became tamer or more daring as the season advanced approaching the shore to within a few yards and sometimes swimming quite in and landing on the rocky beach when they would walk about or stand erect preening their feathers & basking in the sun until startled by the approach of a carriage, bicycle or pedestrian when they would fly out & alight in the middle of the pond. The flock scattered over nearly the whole pond at times but I saw no birds in the cove where the fountain discharges the incoming water although the whole assemblage often drifted well down into Cambridge Hook. The place often rang with their quacking when the air was still.

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Anas boschas. - A fine Mallard drake, no doubt the same that was noted in November, was swimming among the Black Ducks during all the visits but one that I made to Fresh Pond this month, the date of his absence was the 21<sup>st</sup> when I feared that something had befallen him but I found him back in the Pond on the 25<sup>th</sup>. He was a very old fellow and invariably kept at a safe distance from shore. On the 17<sup>th</sup> a ♀ Mallard appeared in the Pond and I saw her there again on the 21<sup>st</sup>. On the 25<sup>th</sup> there were two females one of which kept the drake close company, ~~although~~ the other avoided him as did the female seen on 17<sup>th</sup> from which I concluded that the bird was one of the same on both occasions as well as the 21<sup>st</sup> & that the female which was with the drake on the 25<sup>th</sup> was the newcomer. The female seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> went ashore in company with some Black Ducks and spent upwards of fifteen minutes working about or standing on the rocky pavement near the water's edge.

Dasia acuta. - Two in the Pond on the 13<sup>th</sup> and again on the 21<sup>st</sup>. There can be little doubt that they were the same birds on both occasions for one was a fine old drake, the other a young male in a plumage about intermediate between that of the adult of its own sex and the female. The adult male showed the white on the neck conspicuously at all times. Both birds swam about among the Black Ducks but invariably kept close to one another. I did not see either of them stretch up its neck to the full length. Indeed they usually carried their heads quite as low as did the Black Ducks. I had an excellent view of them and their identification was wholly satisfactory.

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Nettion coarctatus. - One in Fresh Pond on the 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a young male changing into the full plumage the head & neck being strongly tinged with reddish and the tail vanes nearly completed although the body plumage was colored like those of the ♀. It kept close company with a number of Black Ducks.

Clangula americana - Three adult ♂♂ in Fresh Pond on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> and a solitary ♀ on those of the 17<sup>th</sup>.

These are the only occasions on which I have seen Whistlers in Fresh Pond since January 1891 when during a protracted spell of severe cold a small flock frequented a space of open water about the fountain for several days in succession. These noted this month kept rather apart from the Black Ducks. I did not see any of them drive.

On the Back Bay between the two bridges that connect Boston with Cambridge Whistlers have been present almost daily during the present month but in rather smaller numbers than usual. I counted 40 birds there on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Their favorite feeding grounds this autumn are just below Harvard Bridge on the Boston side. On the Cambridge side where they used to congregate the bottom has been deepened considerably by dredging during the past two years & no doubt, more if not all of the feed destroyed.

Garus marinus. - On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> I saw two fine adult birds of this species floating near the inside of an immense bed of Herring Shells in Fresh Pond.

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Larus a. Smithsonianus. - Walter Dean & I made the following counts at Fresh Pond. 11<sup>300</sup>, 13<sup>860</sup>, 14<sup>232</sup>, 17<sup>500</sup>, 21<sup>6</sup>, 25<sup>16</sup>. On several occasions when the weather was exceptionally calm & mild I visited the Pond without finding a single Gull there. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October more than half the surface was closed by thin ice along the edges of which were the middle ten birds. Beyond counting until about 400 were assembled in a gray & white mass. In this throng we counted 85 gray birds - rather more than the usual proportion of gray to adults.

On the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> as I was passing Fresh Pond shortly before sunset ~~the~~ the Gulls started on their evening flight to the sea, all departing in two flocks, the second following the first after an interval of about five minutes. All the birds of each flock left the water at practically the same moment and flew straight down into Cambridge Nook. When they reached its extremity they turned back and began ascending in spirals until they had reached an elevation of about 200 yards ~~where~~ they found into a compact cluster and gradually drifted off out of sight to the eastward sailing in small circles for the first quarter of a mile and at the last moving more swiftly in a straight course. There were about 300 birds in all and their flight was very beautiful & impressive.

Not once during the past autumn have I seen any of the Gulls which have assembled at Fresh Pond in such numbers flying about in search of food. They used to roam back & forth along the shores frequently dipping down to pick up a small fish but of late years they have evidently frequented the Pond solely to rest & bathe on its sheltered shores.

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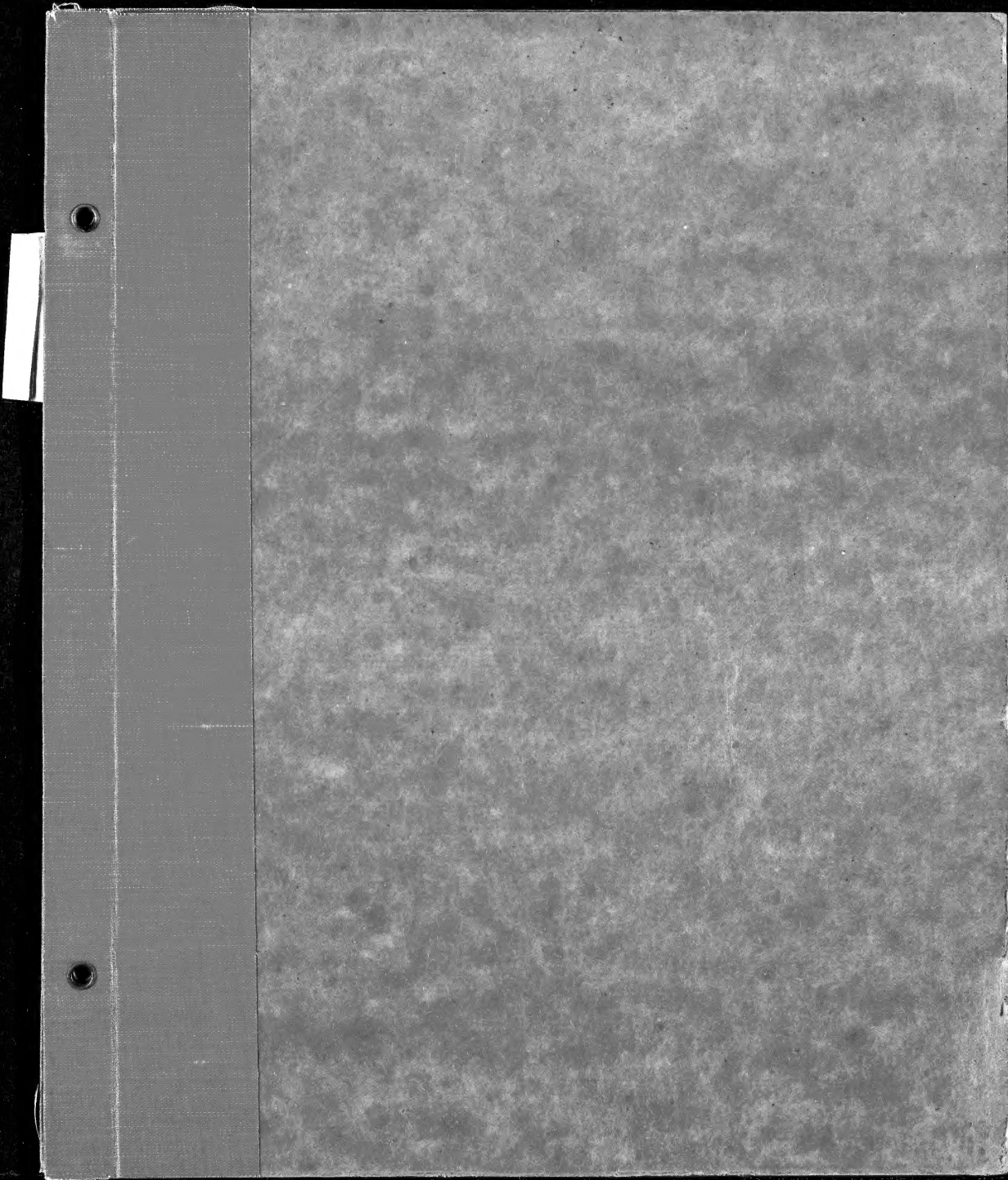
Miscellaneous  
notes

Galeoscoptes carolinensis. - On Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> my assistant R. A. Gilbert found a Cat Bird in the bushes along the river path near the cabin at Balls Bluff, Concord. The bird was very tame and Gilbert got within a few yards of it seeing the blackish cap and the rufous under tail coverts distinctly.

Regulus calendula. - On the 23<sup>rd</sup> W. Tabor & Ralph Hiffman met with a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Fresh Pond. It was in the arbutus hedge that borders the driveway to the house just as it afterwards flew to an apple orchard nearby. Its characteristic chatter was heard several times but the bird's sex was not definitely ascertained. This is the only December record known to me.

Pinicola carolinensis. - Mr. H. B. Bigelow saw a flock of five Pine Grosbeaks in maple woods at Cohasset on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. All were in the plumage of the ♀. Two specimens were shot. These were the only birds reported during the present winter although, as already noted, I heard one at Concord on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>.





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